SPORTS BETTING AS A MAJOR GAMING IN THE CONTEMPORARY GAMBLING INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA: EXAMPLE OF WUKARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF TARABA STATE

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ABSTRACT
Sports betting have a long and interesting history in Nigeria, dating back to the pre-colonial era. However, it wasn't until the 21st century that sports betting became a popular pastime in the country. This paper seeks to examine sports betting as a major gaming in the contemporary gambling industry in Nigeria with a focus on Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. It conceptualizes sports betting and appraises the motives for the increased sports betting in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. It analyzes the level of sports betting and the socio-economic impact of sports betting in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. The study relied on both primary sources like oral interviews, archival materials and secondary sources like books, theses, articles, newspapers, journals, etc. The study observes that two main reason accounts for the prevalence of sports betting in Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State. They are; the widespread availability of smartphones and the internet and two high rates of unemployment and peer pressure. The study demonstrates that despite controversies on the gains and benefits of sports betting in Nigeria, the great improvement in the number of betting companies operating in Nigeria (in our case, Wukari Local Government Area of Taraba State) has created more employment. Aside from employing Nigerians in their offices, betting companies create jobs by inviting people to become agents and own physical outlets. The study also found that these outlets have become very prevalent in Nigeria, and have provided a good source of income for their owners. The shop owners also have their own employees, who earn their small share from the sports betting jackpot. The study concludes the controversy of whether sports betting in Nigeria is harmful or harmless to Nigerians remains a matter to be debated.

Introduction

Betting games have a long and interesting history in Nigeria, dating back to the pre-colonial era. However, it wasn't until the 21st century that betting games became a popular pastime in the country (Ibeh, 2023). Numerous factors have contributed to the great expansion of the betting game industry over the years, including the involvement of numerous indigenous firms in Nigeria's betting game market. Numerous innovations have been incorporated into the sector to enhance accessibility and boost customer loyalty. Millions of people now have the ability to wager on games via the internet utilizing smartphones and other easily accessible devices thanks to the advent of online betting (Omanchi and Okpamen, 2018:29; Olaore, Adejare and Udofia, 2021:165). Prior to the year 2000, actual casinos and sporting events served as the main venues for gambling and sports betting in Nigeria. In Nigeria, sports betting has long been a popular pastime, with the majority of wagers being placed on football games. Football pools, which let participants guess game results, were a big deal in the gaming community. Beginning in the 1990s, new laws and regulatory frameworks were established to control the gambling markets, which also brought about changes to the legal landscape. With the passage of the 1990 Criminal Code Act, gaming activities in Nigeria saw a significant change. Due to this decision, a variety of gambling-related activities are now recognized as structured and lawful in the nation (Pulse-Mix, 2021).

While there are many other types of betting games in Nigeria, football wagering is the most popular. In many regions of Nigeria, football wagering is a highly frequent and popular activity. Young people in Nigeria also wager on horse racing, greyhound racing, track racing, American football, basketball, car racing, boxing, hockey, baseball, and martial arts, among other sports. However, betting on football games continues to be the most popular form of gambling in Nigeria, with most participants being young people between the ages of 15 and 40. The anticipated yearly increase in taxes and levies collected by the Nigerian government from the betting sector is predicted to reach US$8.6 million in 2019 from US$5.7 million in 2014, a 14.2% increase in government income from 5.7%. Nigeria is unquestionably the greatest market for betting games in Africa because of its vast population, and it is also a popular location and favoured centre for bet investments. Due to the belief that gaming may help them advance both socially and economically, many Nigerians in both urban and rural regions have become drawn to betting games (Olaore, Adejare, and Udofia, 2021:166).

There will be 182 million mobile customers in 2021, up from the present 153 million, according to data by Business Monitor International (BMI). It is anticipated that the number of gamers would rise in tandem with the number of internet users. Roughly 60 million Nigerians between the ages of 18 and 40 actively gamble on sports, according to recent research. These gamblers wager an average of 3,000 Naira (about $15) each day. As a result, sports betting in Nigeria generates roughly 2 billion naira every day, or around 730-billion-naira year (Lavojo, et al, 2020:212). Current data indicates that an increasing number of individuals are engaged in this activity; some have even abandoned other pursuits that would enable them to have a brighter future since they view this as a source of money. According to recent research, Nigerians wager on sports online for almost 1.8 billion naira per day. Although some people gain from this practice, most people usually end up losing money (Akinlotan, 2022:369). With a population of more than 211 million, Nigeria is now witnessing an increase in online gaming viewers. The nation's internet gambling industry is thought to bring in $400 billion to $500 billion annually. This is expected to increase as a result of the recent growth in online gaming (Pulse-Mix, 2021).

However, out of all the betting activities that Nigerians seemed to like, sports betting seemed to be the most popular across the nation as a whole, and Wukari Local Government Area in particular. Offor, et al, provided evidence to support the aforementioned claims by pointing out that sports betting appears to be the most popular form of internet gambling. It is the process of making wagers and predictions about sporting events. Different cultures wager on sports at different rates, although most wagers are on American football, association football, basketball, baseball, hockey, etc. Sports betting may also include non-sporting events like political elections, reality programs, and horse

racing in addition to non-human competitions like greyhound racing, horse racing, and illicit underground cockfighting. Among other things, it lets you wager on which side will win, by what score, and even whether or not players will receive a booking (Offor, et al, 2021:389). Therefore, the purpose of this article is to investigate sports betting as a significant game in Nigeria's modern gambling business, with a particular emphasis on Taraba State's Wukari Local Government Area.

The Concept of Sports Betting

In its most basic form, sport betting consists of staking money on both the result of a sports event and on side events that take place during the bigger match or fixture (Lungu, 2020:180; Akinlotan, 2022:368; Lavojo, et al., 2020:212). The act of placing money on a game's outcome is known as sport betting. The majority of the time, playing games of chance is predicated on chance (win or lose). These games often provide an instantaneous result, allowing the participants to know if they have won or lost (Olaore, Adejare, and Udofia, 2021:165). Sports betting is commonly understood to be an activity in which participants make predictions and stakes on different games in the hopes of making money from their wagers. Predictions for betting games often included a variety of sports, including boxing, hockey, baseball, horse racing, greyhound racing, American football, track racing, basketball, car racing, and martial arts, among others (Olaore, Adejare and Udofia, 2021:164; Dipo, 2023).

The detrimental effects of sports betting on people, families, and communities make it a cause of pain and concern for a number of Nigerians. Even while the majority of individuals manage their sports betting responsibly, many develop addictions (Lavojo, et al, 2020:212; Lungu, 2020:180; Akinlotan, 2022:368; Dipo, 2023). Nigeria's enormous football culture has proven to be a valuable asset for the sports betting sector. Millions of Nigerians watch major leagues like the English Premier League and the Spanish La Liga, and sports gambling gives them the chance to make money doing what they love. In Nigeria, one can currently find betting establishments on most streets; new ones are opening up every day, and there are everyday customers both in-person and online (Omanchi and Okpamen, 2018:29; Lavojo, et al, 2020:212; Lungu, 2020:180; Akinlotan, 2022:368).

Description of the Study Area

Wukari Local Government Area is situated in the southern region of Taraba State and is located between latitudes 7° 52' N and longitude 9° 46' E. It is bordered to the north by Gassol Local Government and to the south by Benue State's Ukum Local Government Area. It borders Taraba State's Ibi Local Government Area to the east. However, Taraba State's Takum and Donga Local Government Areas share its western borders. Additionally, it borders Benue State's Katsina-Ala Local Government Area on Takum Road in Abako, sharing a small piece of that line (Lukpata and Zhema, 2019; Donye, et al, 2021). With a total surface area of 4,308 km², Wukari Local Government Area was established in 1976. As of 2006, the state's population was 241,546 according to the National Population Figure. The area vegetation is of the guinea savannah variety, and the local government suffers a tropical climate. There are wet and dry seasons to identify it. April marks the start of the rainy season, which lasts until October. While November through March is when the dry season occurs and 1.350 mm of rain falls on average. The driest time of year is known as the harmattan, which is defined as a dry, chilly, and dusty wind that lasts from December to February and has an estimated humidity of 13% (Omanchi and Ibrahim, 2017). The region is well-suited for growing roots and grain crops, such as yam, cassava, corn, rice, soy beans, and millets, which are grown for food and income. This practice has significantly altered the rich vegetation of the area's distant past. In addition, the individuals work in white-collar occupations, the arts, and crafts. The local government headquarters' administrative standing has increased employment and drawn more people from neighboring regions for trade, farming, and civil reasons (Donye, et al, 2021; Lukpata and Zhema, 2019; Omanchi and Ibrahim, 2017). The region has an exceptionally rich cultural legacy. The system of customary marriage, folk dances, masquerades, festivals, age divisions, chieftaincy institutions, the arts, and the people's faiths are examples of this.

Factors Influencing Sports Betting in Wukari Local Government Area

Several factors have been deduced by various researchers who have done one form of work or the other regarding betting games or gambling in Nigeria. Some of the researchers did the study at the regional level, while others did the research

with a national outlook. Empirical findings showed about seven major factors responsible for the people's engagement in betting games and why the level of involvement in betting games by Nigerians kept increasing by the day. Some of the factors include strong tradition of sports participation and fandom, innovation and internet betting options, increased indigenous participation, new game offerings, population increase, change in the family system and values and the get-rich-quick syndrome (Lavojo, et al, 2020; Olaore, Adejare and Udofia, 2021; Pulse-Mix, 2021; Lungu, 2020; Omanchi and Okpamen, 2018).

1. Strong Tradition of Sports Participation and Fandom: Particularly football is very popular in Wukari, and many locals and visitors to the area are ardent supporters of both domestic and international teams. An interest in sports betting arises naturally from this love of sports. Accordingly, social media's ascent has contributed to the popularity of sports betting in Wukari. Sports betting businesses utilize social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to advertise their products and draw in new clients. Furthermore, a lot of people share their betting methods and advice with others on social media. Due to this, there is now a thriving sports betting community in Wukari, which has increased the activity's appeal (Omanchi and Okpamen, 2018:29; Lavojo, et al, 2020; Lungu, 2020; Akinlotan, 2022; Boyoja, 2023; Zando, 2023).

2. Innovation and Internet Betting Option: The internet's impact and innovations that provide players with more betting alternatives have been a crucial factor in the growth of betting games in Nigeria (in our instance, Wukari Local Government Area) throughout time. Additionally, more people are participating in betting games and having the flexibility to do so from the comfort of their homes or anywhere else thanks to the internet and information technology (Lavojo, et al., 2020; Pulse-Mix, 2021; Lungu, 2020; Omanchi and Okpamen, 2018; Boyoja, 2023; Zando, 2023). Thanks to innovation and the internet, it is now simple for players to wager on games, monitor their results online, and place bets thanks to the convenience and capability that betting organizations provide (Lavojo, et al, 2020; Pulse-Mix, 2021; Ameh, 2023; Bako, 2023). This implies that the accessibility of sports betting services has facilitated participation. People may now easily make bets on their favourite teams and events in Wukari thanks to the proliferation of sports betting businesses and websites.

3. Increased in Indigenous Companies' Participation: The growing engagement of well-known indigenous Nigerian businesses in the betting industry is another factor contributing to the rise in gaming activity in that country. The rate at which betting games were played in Nigeria was extremely low while they were still played offline and with little involvement from local companies. However, a number of indigenous Nigerian businesses invested in the betting game industry as a result of the country's population boom, young unemployment and underemployment, and betting organizations' identification of commercial prospects in the sector. Their involvement in the industry caused betting shops and centres to spring up all over Nigeria, and this in turn caused Nigerians of all ages, genders, tribes, and nationalities to bet more on sports (Boyoja, 2023; Zando, 2023Lavojo, et al., 2020; Pulse-Mix, 2021; Lungu, 2020; Omanchi and Okpamen, 2018).

4. New Game Offerings: Nigerians' engagement and participation in betting games has also risen as a result of the release of new games and flexible betting possibilities. The betting businesses were able to determine the sorts of games that will appeal to the people of Nigeria and provide them with flexible alternatives that will let them wager stress-free. In an effort to market their brands, some betting organizations also hire well-known football players, models, and artists, as well as sponsor a variety of social events (Yohanna, 2023; Aliyu, 2023; Lavojo, et al., 2020; Omanchi and Okpamen, 2018).

5. Population Increase: Some Nigerians are not working and turn to betting as a form of solace. As a result, the country's population is growing geometrically, and the country's growing unemployment and underemployment rates are contributing factors. As a result, betting has become a national pastime and source of addiction for many Nigerians (Olaore, Adejare and Udofia, 2021; Lavojo, et al, 2020; Bako, 2023; Ameh, 2023).

6. Changing Family System and Values: Numerous things have been altered in Nigeria as a result of the country's ongoing economic challenges since the 1980s. The typical Nigerian single-income, polygamous household as well as the typical stay-at-home housewife or mother

system were altered, and women and children started actively participating in the country's economic life. This led to a new trend in the values and systems of the nation. Following the economic crisis of the 1980s, a lot of women found freedom, which also encouraged a lot of them to start betting. Youth and adolescents were quick to start betting because it gave them an additional way to make quick money if they were lucky enough to win after placing a wager (Lavojo, et al, 2020; Olaore, Adejare and Udofia, 2021; Lungu, 2020; Omanchi and Okpamen, 2018; Omanchi, 2019). From the old agricultural and communal economic pursuit to what is now called an individualistic and competitive economy sought by each individual, a new economic connection was formed that altered the orientation and generated a shift (Lavojo, et al, 2020; Omanchi, 2019; Wuam, 2015).

7. The Get-Rich-Quick Syndrome: The idea of "getting rich quick" has taken hold among many Nigerians, partly due to the disappearance of the traditional value system that placed a premium on labor dignity. Many Nigerians have subsequently abandoned that antiquated value system, which has intensified their desire to get wealthy quickly and their willingness to do whatever it takes to do so. Millions of Nigerians now wager on sports in the hopes of becoming wealthy quickly, forgoing hard labor and decency. Nigeria's economic situation acts as a catalyst. According to the 2022 Global Hunger Index, Nigeria ranked 103rd out of 121 countries. (Yohanna, 2023; Aliyu, 2023; Olaore, Adejare and Udofia, 2021; Lavojo, et al, 2020). In a country where unemployment is high and poverty is widespread, the promise of quick and easy earnings is very appealing. Many young people in Wukari view sports betting as a way to escape poverty and achieve financial success.

The Level of Sports Betting in Wukari Local Government Area

One of the most competitive gambling markets in Africa is Nigeria. In general, Wukari Local Government Area's online and offline gambling practices are similar to those of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. They are both overseen by the National Lottery Regulatory Commission (NLRC), which was founded and made lawful by the National Lottery Act, 2005, and are distinguished by the active involvement of Nigerians (Lavojo, et al, 2020; Olaore, Adejare and Udofia, 2021). According to a 2022 survey, 53% of adult Nigerians who gambled daily made up 36% of those who had gambled in the previous year. This indicates that more than 20 million Nigerians regularly engage in gambling. Social media exposure and technological advancement have helped Nigerians' views on gambling to become more tolerant. Specifically, when it comes to sports betting, it is no longer something people do in private and is now accepted in most societies (Lavojo, et al., 2020; Pulse-Mix, 2021; Lungu, 2020).

The population's size and level of internet usage provide the ideal environment for online gaming businesses to flourish. In Nigeria, there are several legitimate online bookies to choose from, including as Bet9ja, 1960bet, Nairabet, Betfair, 9jaPredict, Betway, and BetNigeria. In contrast to a few decades ago, when they were uncommon, this isn't the case now. A recent report states that there are over 169 cell phone subscribers and over 100 million internet users in Nigeria (Lungu, 2020; Akinlotan, 2022; Lavojo, et al., 2020; Yohanna, 2023; Aliyu, 2023). It is hardly surprising that the percentage of sports bettors in the country has increased along with the number of people using mobile phones and the internet. These days, we can easily and economically place bets from the comfort of our homes or while on the go. Nigeria has very good internet access. Between 2018 and 2022, Nigeria's percentage of internet users climbed somewhat, from about 26% to 38%. Sports betting in Nigeria is definitely expanding because to the country's higher internet penetration and easier access to reasonably priced cellphones (Lavojo, et al., 2020; Pulse-Mix, 2021; Lungu, 2020; Yohanna, 2023; Aliyu, 2023).

With the development of digital technology and the worsening of economic conditions, the gambling industry in Nigeria—in our case, Wukari Local Government Area—has been steadily expanding. An increasing number of people have turned to sports betting as a way to make quick money. People enjoy placing bets on football and eSports, and this tendency is developing steadily. The law makes a distinction between games based on skill, which are allowed, and games based on chance, which are not. Legal forms of gambling include lotteries, land-based casinos, and sports betting; illegal forms include roulette, dice games, and non-skilled card games. Because of this, gambling is becoming more widely accepted (Boyoja, 2023; Zando, 2023; Lungu, 2020; Akinlotan, 2022).

The lotto, slot machines, and online sports betting (such as football league promotions and pools) are the most widely used forms of gambling. The statute makes no specific mention of regulating internet gambling. The legal gambling age in Nigeria is eighteen. The option to wager online has enticed bettors to wager on games they might not have otherwise been willing to on their preferred football league pools and promotions. Recent years have seen a sharp increase in the betting industry as more and more players want to bet on their favourite teams and events via digital platforms (Yohanna, 2023; Aliyu, 2023; Akinlotan, 2022; Lavojo, et al., 2020). Using gender as the foundation for the analysis, the table below provides more details on the extent of sports betting in Wukari Local Government Area.

Level of Sports Betting in Wukari Local Government Area by Gender

S/N	Item	Male	Female
1.	Most visited site or betting platform	In Nigeria, there are several legitimate online bookies to choose from, including as Bet9ja, 1960bet, Nairabet, Betfair, 9jaPredict, Betway, and BetNigeria. Nonetheless, Bet9ja is the most popular online betting platform and the top website in Wukari Local Government Area.	In Nigeria, there are several legitimate online bookies to choose from, including as Bet9ja, 1960bet, Nairabet, Betfair, 9jaPredict, Betway, and BetNigeria. Nonetheless, Bet9ja is the most popular online betting platform and the top website in Wukari Local Government Area.
2.	Level of participation	According to a survey done in 2021 by Bet Ensured, men bet more than women do since they are generally greater risk-takers and passionate about sports.	Despite the fact that men wager more on sports than women, the number of female gamblers has grown over time. In Nigeria, women account for 10.3% of all online gamblers, a number that is continuously increasing.
3.	Reasons for sports betting	Nigeria's economic situation acts as a catalyst. According to the 2022 Global Hunger Index, Nigeria ranked 103rd out of 121 countries.	Nigeria's economic situation acts as a catalyst. According to the 2022 Global Hunger Index, Nigeria ranked 103rd out of 121 countries.
4.	Average amount of sports betting	Sports betting costs about N3,000 per day on average, and 53% of Nigerians gamble at least once a day.	Sports betting costs about N3,000 per day on average, and 53% of Nigerians gamble at least once a day.

5.	Average age of sports betting	The most active age group is between 18 and 45 years old. This proved that people who are in their early 20s and 30s had a higher propensity to gamble online.	The most active age group is between 25 and 40 years old. This proved that people who are in their early 20s and 30s had a higher propensity to gamble online.
6.	Most placed game	Football is the preferred sport of Nigerians, who are passionate sports enthusiasts. Of the 70% of Nigerian males who are passionate about football, most of their gambling is on football matches.	Football is the preferred sport of Nigerians, who are passionate sports enthusiasts. Of the 70% of Nigerian females who are passionate about football, most of their gambling is on football matches.

Source: Author Field Work, 2023

The above table shows how social media exposure and technology advancement have influenced Nigerians' (in our case, Wukari Local Government Area's) perceptions on gambling to become more liberal. For example, sports betting is no longer a taboo activity and is increasingly accepted in society. This is a result of peer pressure, high unemployment rates, and the general accessibility to smartphones and the internet.

Socio-Economic Impact of Sports Betting in Wukari Local Government Area

The socio-economic impact of sports betting in Wukari Local Government Area has been substantial. Firstly, it has boosted the local economy by giving those who are involved in the industry a means of support. This includes both bookmakers and employees. Secondly, sports betting has created jobs, especially for young people who do not have other options for employment. Thirdly, the industry generates revenue for the government through taxes and licensing fees. Lastly, the growth of sports betting has led to community development and engagement by offering opportunities for social interaction and entertainment within the area, thus contributing to the local economy. There are several ways to examine the socioeconomic effects of sports betting in Wukari Local Government Area:

1. Economic Boost: The local economy benefits significantly from sports betting. Because it brings in money for betting organizations, it also opens up job chances for those in the field, including customer service agents, odds compilers, and bookies. This is true since betting organizations create jobs by recruiting people to become agents and operate physical outlets, in addition to hiring Nigerians (in our case, Wukari people) in their offices (Boyoja, 2023; Zando, 2023; Adedokun and Adebayo, 2020; Olanrewaju and Adewumi, 2019; Oyedele and Olagunju, 2019). These establishments have proliferated throughout Nigeria (including the Wukari Local Government Area) and have given its owners a reliable source of revenue. Employees of the store owners also receive a tiny portion of the winnings from sports betting. This enhances the general economic well-being of the neighborhood and lowers unemployment rates (Yohanna, 2023; Aliyu, 2023; Adedokun and Adebayo, 2020; Olanrewaju and Adewumi, 2019; Oyedele and Olagunju, 2019). Put simply, sports betting reduces unemployment and the negative societal repercussions of armed robberies and other crimes by providing jobs to a large number of locals and residents of nearby communities. The local community has benefited greatly from the expansion in work opportunities, which have given people the ability to make a living and raise their socioeconomic standing. Additionally, the presence of jobs has aided in lowering local unemployment rates and fostering economic expansion (Ameh, 2023; Bako, 2023).

2. Revenue Generation for the Government: The Wukari Local Government Area's government receives tax revenue from sports betting, which is utilized to finance a range of public services and development initiatives. The growing acceptance of sports betting has allowed the government to rake in a sizable sum of tax money. The government has been able to invest more money in public services and development projects thanks to the money it has received from sports betting. The local economy has benefited from this revenue infusion, which has opened doors for expansion and improvement (Ameh, 2023; Bako, 2023; Khikando, 2023; Olanrewaju and Adewumi, 2019; Oyedele and Olagunju, 2019). All things considered, Sports betting has been instrumental in augmenting the government's revenue base, which has resulted in socio-economic advancements in Wukari Local Government Area. The tax revenue is employed to finance the development of infrastructure, healthcare, education, and other vital services, thereby elevating the general socio-economic circumstances of the community.

3. Social Infrastructure Development: Due to its ability to foster social contact and enjoyment in the community, sports betting has aided in its growth and engagement. The money made has also been used to fund the development of infrastructure and the provision of basic services like healthcare and education. Wukari Local Government Area uses its increasing sports betting money to build and upgrade its social infrastructure. In order to encourage a culture of sports, physical fitness, and social contact within the community, this includes building and maintaining sports facilities, schools, and recreation centres (Boyoja, 2023; Zando, 2023; Adedokun and Adebayo, 2020).

4. Social Impact: Sports betting affects society in both positive and negative ways. Positively, it encourages a sense of community and camaraderie amongst bettors who converse about sports and compete in amicable ways. It suggests that participating in sports betting fosters interpersonal relationships and a sense of community. Bettors become relationships with other bettors when they get together to watch sports and support their favourite teams (Khikando, 2023; Adedokun and Adebayo, 2020; Olanrewaju and Adewumi, 2019; Oyedele and Olagunju, 2019). By drawing tourists and other visitors who might partake in other economic activities in the area, it can help boost the local economy. But there are unfavourable social repercussions to sports betting as well. Excessive gambling contributes to societal problems like domestic violence, criminality, and mental health issues as well as addiction and financial hardships for local residents and families (Boyoja, 2023; Zando, 2023; Adedokun and Adebayo, 2020; Olanrewaju and Adewumi, 2019; Oyedele and Olagunju, 2019). Simply put, while it has helped the local economy and created jobs, it has also resulted in a number of social problems, including financial ruin and gambling addiction. To reduce the harmful effects of sports betting and encourage responsible gaming, it is critical that the local government put in place efficient rules and support systems.

Conclusion

The study has been able to show that sports betting is a major gaming activity in the Nigerian gambling industry, and Wukari Local Government Area in Taraba State is no exception. It's vital to remember that a variety of factors, such as Wukari's long history of sports fandom and participation, the idea that sports betting can be a profitable endeavor, the availability of sports betting services, and the growth of social media, all contribute to the popularity of sports betting in the city. In Wukari Local Government Area, sports betting has had a mixed effect. While it has helped the local economy and created jobs, it has also resulted in a number of social problems, including financial ruin and gambling addiction. Although the local government has taken some action to address these issues, more needs to be done. More needs to be done to support those who are battling with addiction and to raise public awareness of the risks associated with gambling.

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