

## **GAMBLING AS A FORM OF LEISURE MISUSE.**

Gambling is a kind of game based on chance and luck whereby the participants put their money and other valuables at risk of either saving them or losing them at the end of the game. It is so common these days under the famous name-Betting as advertised in all media.

### **REASONS/CAUSES OF GAMBLING.**

Peer influence which makes one to copy and be like their friends most especially when they are happy and talk about the benefits e.g. quick money that their friends get and they want to emulate them in order to fit in the groups.

The need to get money makes some people to gamble because they believe that after winning the game, they will raise their standards of living through acquiring basic needs and luxuries as well.

Some people gamble because they lack guidance and counselling from their parents and guardians who would have helped them to know the disadvantages of gambling and guide them into getting healthy leisure activities like praying.

Others gamble out of a belief that practice makes perfect and in so doing they want to prove to others how lucky they are, how rich they are and end up being addicted.

Ignorance on how to use their money since they think it can be wasted in any way possible to gain fame and to acquire more money as well.

Weakness of the law that gives chance to some citizens to participate in any activity with minimal restriction, so such people gamble knowing that they may not be punished.

Mass media info of radios, TVs that advertise and sometimes entertain the public by whatever is favourable to them with the intention of enlarging their businesses.

Decline in religious conviction can also make some people to gamble since in gambling there is less love for each other, instead the arguments and conflicts after one's loss can lead to hatred which contradicts the religious life of the majority of the society.

Poverty makes people fail to earn a living, and therefore may not be in position to buy the basic needs of life. This may force them to engage in gambling in order to try their luck just because they want to survive.

Permissiveness makes people to gamble because they know the society doesn't care about the activities of its people. They participate in open theft of people's property, money in the name of gambling well knowing that everyone in the society is minding his/her business.

## **IMPACT OF GAMBLING ON SOCIETY.**

### **POSITIVE IMPACT.**

Gambling helps one to improve on his or her standards of living since after winning, that individual can use that money to invest, buy basics needs of life, leading to personal and society development.

It is a source of employment opportunities to those operating machines, attendants, which enables them to attain the basic needs of life and improve on their welfare.

It is a source of government revenue through taxing of gambling centres, those who send and receive money on their phones through taxes imposed on their income, thus such revenue is used in vital sectors of the society.

The money got from gambling can be used to offer charity to the needy people of the society which can enable them to improve on their welfare and live a happy life.

Through gambling one becomes famous which enables him to be hosted on TVs, radios and can inspire others to use well the money attained from gambling.

Through gambling one can get friends, and this can make one fit in the society because of their gambling talent.

### **DANGERS OF GAMBLING.**

Gambling makes people to become lazy and only depend on chance rather than using their God given gifts and talents to survive yet laziness is condemned since it leads to poverty and covetousness.

Gambling is an unfair way of spending leisure time since only a few lucky ones will manage to win therefore it is seemingly a legal way of theft which is condemned in society and by Christianity.

Gambling expresses lack of love for one another and instead promotes hatred as well as lack of trust in God's providence where we think we have to gain out of luck and chance.

It makes some people to get addicted hence losing their identity respect/dignity in the society where they belong. With time one may become anti-social since few people can associate with a gambler.

With gambling, the economy is affected since the participants are rarely productive since they base their luck and their development on manipulating other people's property, and money instead of working.

It can lead to family breakdown and neglect whereby instead of catering for the needs of the family, the gambler selfishly satisfies himself out of winning and showing off hence running away from the responsibility of being a parent.

Gambling can also lead to imprisonment in case it is officially illegal as participants will be regarded to be idle and disorderly hence against the development of the nation.

It leads to high levels of crime rate like theft since one has to replace the lost property and this can lead to imprisonment if one is got.

It is a form of money misuse since money is used selfishly and can make the lucky ones benefit as the unlucky ones lose. This is wrong because money ought to be used for the benefit of others in the society.

### **SOLUTIONS TO GAMBLING**

Those who gamble should be counselled to realise that it is a wasteful way of spending money and therefore should be taught the rightful way of spending money, by investing, giving offertory. etc.

Christians should pray for the gamblers to change and begin to work hard in order to earn money in the rightful ways

Gamblers should have love for others, in so doing they will refrain from cheating them through gambling

Christians should be holy and engage in only holy activities instead of gambling which creates hatred and enmity. This is because one does not associate with unholy people.

Christians should work hard in order to earn wealth honestly instead of cheating other through gambling.

Christians should be exemplary so that the gamblers can copy from their example and work hard to earn wealth in the righteous ways.

People should get better ways of spending leisure which can bring them closer to God and to one another. For example, they should engage in fellowships, prayers instead of gambling.

Christians should respect the image of God in which they were created by working for eternal life instead of over relying on wealth since it is temporary and eternal life is everlasting.

Laws should be put in place to restrict gambling so that people can learn to work and avoid laziness since according to proverbs, laziness is a foolish way of living.

Rich Christians should share with the poor Christians so that they get means of survival instead of engaging in gambling in order to earn a living.

## **MASS MEDIA AS A SOURCE OF LEISURE.**

Mass media involves the flow of information from one person/destination to another and it involves forms like radios, newspapers, radios, TVs etc.

**NB;** mass media is good.

It gives respect and relaxation of the mind and body. This is because one can relax as he/she listens to a radio, reading newspapers etc.

It is a source of entertainment to the people who have fun as they are listening to music on radios, watch plays on TVs etc.

It keeps one in touch with the happenings around the world. When people watch TVs, they get to know what is happening in the world more especially if they watch news.

Through news, media evangelism can take place and people convert to Christianity. For example, on radio stations like Top radio, salt radio and televisions like Top TV, channel 44 etc.

Mass media helps in passing on sex education which agrees with proper upbringing of children expected of parents.

Mass media is a source of income to the people who work on TVs, radios, newspapers which helps them to improve on their standards of living.

The public is sensitized through mass media about some problems that affect the country like AIDS, corruption in order to control immorality in the society.

Through it, advertisements are done and the public is made aware of the goods and services.

It is a source of revenue to the government, because it taxes the TV stations, newspapers, radios etc. and the taxes are used for the development of other sectors of the economy.

## **DISADVANTAGES.**

It encourages passive leisure instead of active leisure which kills creativity and talent development. This is because people just sit and listen to radios, watch TVs etc.

It is sometimes expensive and it cannot be afforded by the poor hence it is discriminative as the poor cannot afford TVs and this leaves them discontented and this can make them to hate the rich.

Some programs promote immorality and instead of enlightening people about the proper way of life, they encourage them to abuse sex, smoke, drink alcohol etc. for example red pepper has stories of Mr. hyena which narrate his sexual stories which can make young ones to learn about sex and abuse it as well.

It can be addictive if not controlled, thereby causing time wastage and at the same time encouraging laziness. For example, some youth sit watching TVs the whole day instead of working to earn a living.

There is a lot of blackmailing in some forms of mass media, where sometimes radios, newspapers produce wrong information about someone which can tarnish his or her name.

Anti-social behaviours such as drinking, smoking, are advertised on radios and televisions which can make young ones to copy and they start engaging in such activities.

There is loss of culture as most youth are interested in western culture at the cost of their own