

Correlating the Personality Traits, Gambling Motivation and Gambling Behavior of Macau Senior High School Students

Abstract

The purposes of this study are to investigate the correlation of sensation seeking, impulsivity, gambling motivation and gambling behavior, as well as to explore the significant differences of the above mentioned variables by gender and age.

Several inventories measuring sensation seeking, impulsivity, gambling motivation and gambling behaviors were completed by a sample of 556 senior high school students. Statistical analyses methods such as independent sample t-test, one-way ANOVA, correlation, multiple regression analysis and ordinal logistic regression were included.

The findings of current study were summarized as follows :

1. 4.9% of the sample was classified as problem gamblers, while 11.5% was classified as at-risk gamblers, 73.02% reported having gambled during the previous 12 months.
2. Male students ranked significantly higher than females on the measure of gambling participation and on the percentage of at-risk gamblers, but less likely to be non problem gamblers than females, there was no significant difference by gender among problem gamblers.
3. Male students were more likely than females to seek heightened sensation. Significant differences were found among the total sample, non problem gamblers, and problem gamblers. There were no detectable differences by age in sensation seeking.
4. There were no significant gender nor age differences in impulsivity among the total sample, non problem gamblers, at-risk gamblers and problem gamblers.

5. Both sensation seeking and impulsivity did correlate significantly in a positive manner with gambling participation and gambling severity.
6. Among the total sample and non problem gamblers, male students ranked significantly higher than females on intrinsic motivation for stimulation, for accomplishment, for knowledge, extrinsic motivation for identified regulation, for introjected regulation, and amotivation. No significant differences were found by gender within at-risk gamblers and problem gamblers.
7. Among the total sample, Scheffe Post Hoc comparison revealed significant differences by age in intrinsic motivation for stimulation, for accomplishment, extrinsic motivation for external regulation, and amotivation. Those aged 16 or below were less likely to gamble because of these motivations. Among non problem gamblers, Scheffe Post Hoc comparison revealed significant differences by age in intrinsic motivation for stimulation, for accomplishment, and amotivation. Those aged 16 or below were less likely to gamble because of these motivations. There were no significant differences by age in gambling motivations within at-risk gamblers and problem gamblers.
8. Multiple regression analysis showed that intrinsic motivation for stimulation predicted gambling participation. Among 7 gambling motivations, the intrinsic motivation for stimulation uniquely explained 22.1% of variance and contributed significantly to gambling participation.
9. Amotivation contributed significantly to the severity of gambling. For one unit increase in amotivation, there was a 1.157 increase in the expected log odds of moving to a higher category of gambling severity.

Implications for education, prevention, and policy are discussed. Suggestions are made for future research.

Keywords: Senior High School Student; Personality Traits; Sensation Seeking; Impulsivity; Gambling Motivation; Gambling Behavior.