

Casinos in Goa: The Challenge Ahead is to Implement Sustainable Strategies to Minimize Their Ill-Effects

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Abstract *The government of Goa has been promoting casino tourism in Goa arguing that promoting casinos is necessary to bolster the economic growth of Goa especially in the aftermath of the mining ban that deprived Goa and its government of the substantial revenue generated through mining. The casino promotion, however, has met with strong protests in Goa from the time the government decided to encourage casinos to expand the growth of tourism in Goa. Casinos have taken strong roots in Goa and clearing the ever-growing forest of casinos is becoming more and more difficult as years roll by. The offshore casinos have almost fused with the landscape of Panjim making it almost next to impossible to visualize Panjim and the river Mandovi sans the casinos. At this juncture, accepting, despite all opposition, that the reality of Panjim 'casinoscape' will linger on into the future, the challenges ahead lie in implementing sustainable strategies to maximize the gains from casinos and counteract the prospective ill-effects from casino type tourism instead of imagining a return back to the Panjim of the 1990s and earlier.*

Keywords: *Casinos, Economy, Employment, Crime, Strategies*

INTRODUCTION

For some time now casino gambling, compared to other vices, is being increasingly accepted by society as a legitimate economic pursuit. People's perception of casinos as pernicious dens of evil has undergone a drastic transformation and they have come to be accepted as catalysts addressing a number of societal concerns and economic issues (Eadington 1999: 136). Many public attitude surveys in countries like America have indicated that a very high proportion of people consider it as an acceptable form of entertainment (ibid.). Casino gambling entertainment has experienced considerable growth and is becoming increasingly popular in many countries of the world. In a way, it is also a consequence of strategies adopted by governments in a belief that it will contribute to tourism development (ibid. 127).

Huge successes in famous historic casino centers like Las Vegas, Monte Carlo, Macau, etc., have inspired governments to authorize legal gambling within their jurisdictions. In

Macau, 'Las Vegas of the East', the total gaming revenue amounted to \$45.1 billion in 2013 in comparison to Las Vegas which generated only \$6.5 billion (Benton 2015: 1). Macau casinos have engendered huge economic benefits and revenues through tax, prompting other Asian countries to endeavour to achieve an economic windfall similar to the one experienced by Macau (ibid. 2).

Legal gambling, more than gambling in illegal settings, has a broader appeal and as a consequence there is a proliferation of casino gaming leading to its emerging as another industry offering sizeable revenue to the government. The economic dimension has been the major driving impetus to permit casino form of gambling in various parts of the globe. Legal casinos worldwide have increased from about fifteen in 1970 to seventy-seven in the 1980s (Siu 2007 in Wan 2011: 63), and from seventy-seven nations permitting casino gambling in 1986 to 109 in 1996. By 2003, forty-eight of the fifty states of the USA and 130 of the world's 202 countries had legal casinos (ibid.; and Thompson, 2012: 195).

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With the expansion of the Asian economy in the last several decades, the Asian population which earlier found travelling prohibitively expensive has started travelling. They are contributing to the global tourism industry and to casino resort legalization, too (Galaviz 2012: 87). Tourism is one of the world's largest industries and in such tourism related economies like South Korea, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines Myanmar, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, etc., gambling has grabbed an important position since 1999 and inspired by their gains other countries, too, are adopting casinos as a strategy to attract more tourists to their regions (Moufakkir & Timothy, 2014: 86).

OBJECTIVES

The paper attempts 1) to examine whether the assumptions, that casinos are beneficial to the local economy, increase entrepreneurial activities in the neighbourhood, provide an opportunity for an increase in employment and lead to an enhancement in public services, are based on factual evidence; 2) to verify whether the reasons for the opposition to the expansion of casinos are supported by the findings of research based investigations in tourism and casino related areas; and 3) to underscore the need to implement sustainable strategies to maximize the gains from casinos and counteract the prospective ill-effects from casino type tourism.

METHODOLOGY

The first section of the paper begins with the observation that gambling is increasingly accepted by people as a legitimate economic pursuit and that its spread has been facilitated with accompanying initiatives by heads of nations to legalize the game. The next section discusses the emergence of casinos as new attraction to tourists to Goa along with the research based literature review of articles in journals on tourism and related themes. The literature review supports the positive impact of casinos on the economy, small businesses, employment and public services. Notwithstanding the positive contribution of casinos, they have been opposed by individuals, the Church bodies and the NGOs. The reasons for this opposition have been delineated in the following section. Next, the possibility of finding a solution to the problems posed by concerned individuals and groups is explored with the assistance of studies conducted in areas promoting casino-based tourism. Finally, an effort is made to investigate the strategies utilized by gambling centred economies so as to offer some recommendations which could be implemented to alleviate if not eradicate the adverse impacts associated with casinos.

CASINO GAMBLING IN GOA

Goa, the erstwhile Portuguese colony and an emerging tourist destination offers casino gaming both on land and

offshore. Casinos have emerged as the new attractions pulling national as well as international tourists to visit Goa, once a hot-spot for hippies, and now, increasingly known as an upcoming gambling destination.

Seeking entertainment and leisure in gaming is an integral part of Asia's tradition having traditionally gambled in cards and cockfights at home and in the streets (Moufakkir & Timothy 2014: 86). Gambling, one of the oldest industries in the world and legal in India for centuries, was banned nationwide since 1867, but in 1998, law opened the door for states to permit the activity (Thompson 2012: 207). Though a strong propensity for gambling is demonstrated by many Indians as it is entrenched in Indian culture and society, of the 29 States and various other union territories gambling in the form of casino gaming is permitted only in two Indian States and in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu.

William Britto, the first and only Goan to hold a casino license, was instrumental in persuading the state government led by Mr. Ravi Naik to amend The Public Gambling Act, 1976, in 1992 and for paving the way for the introduction of the first casino in Goa. Since 1992 when the first amendment came in to introduce vessel as places for gambling, a number of amendments have been made in the Goa Legislative Assembly in favour of casino industry till date.

As stated by GMA (2016: 15) the land based casinos of Goa are the 'Deltin Suites, Casino Pearl, Dunes Casino, Goldfinger Casino, Chances Casino, Crown Casino, Casino Carnival, Casino Paradise, Casino Palms, Grand 7 Casino, and Casino Dice'. The five offshore casinos located in the heart of the state capital, Panaji, in the Mandovi river are: 1. Motor Vessel (MV) Pride of Goa or Casino Pride 2. MV Horseshoe (Deltin Royale Casino) 3. MV Boa Sorte (Casino Pride 2) 4. MV Casino Royale (Deltin JAQK) and 5. MV Royale Floatel, an Offshore-cum-Floatel Hotel.

The Goa government have facilitated the expansion of casinos in Goa. Casinos have been promoted in tourism areas due to their assumed capability of being the largest employers and their potential to attract a huge number of tourists who otherwise might not have considered visiting the said destination. Bringing in more tourists is seen as a source of potential revenue (Moufakkir & Timothy 2014: 86) and a panacea to economic and tourism woes (McCartney 2016: 119). For instance, after casino licensing was liberalized in Macau, the gaming industry experienced rapid growth reaching a high of US 10.33 billion dollars in 2006 (Central Intelligence Agency 2008 in Wan et al. 2011: 64). A reliable impact of gambling is increase in governmental revenue, received directly from gambling provision or indirectly from taxation of gambling venues and operations in the form of licensing fees, goods and services tax, etc. In Macau, the casinos contributed immeasurably to the Gross National Product which increased from 11 percent in 2001 to 80 percent in 2014 (McCartney 2016: 121). Goa also earns over

200 crores from the casino industry (The Goan, Panaji, 4 August 2017: 1). The revenue generated for the financial year 2014-15 was 195.1 crores, for 2015-16 it increased to 214.2 crores and in 2016-17 the total revenue collected increased even more to Rs. 334.0 crores (The Navhind Times, Panaji, 20 July 2017: 8).

Secondly, casinos in Goa play an important role by supporting several star hotels near Mandovi in Panjim. These hotels experience an increase in occupancy, especially because of the domestic tourists (The Navhind Times, Panaji, 20 July 2017: 8). The editor of the Navhind Times wrote, 'the footfalls have been increasing and the hotels, restaurants and other allied tourist businesses in Panaji and around have profited from tourist arrivals for casinos (The Navhind Times, Panaji, 21 July 2017). It has been found that casinos do lead to an increase in entrepreneurial activities in its neighborhood. Gaming stimulates entrepreneurial activity attracting other businesses catering to the gamers like magnets. There is an influx of wealth, through the requirement of overnight stays by tourists, entertainment and also sightseeing opportunities created as a result of destination casinos (Cotti 2008: 113).

Thirdly, casinos have contributed to employment generation in Goa (Herald, Panaji, 20 July 2017: 1). Korn et al (2003 in Chan et al 2015: 86) states that in gambling cities like Las Vegas and Macau, the idea that gambling industry simultaneously brings with it employment thereby alleviating poverty has been internalized by the residents. With the end of the gaming monopoly and increase of casinos in Macau the key economic measures, viz., the GDP, employment and tax revenue have experienced growth year after year (Benton 2015: 12-13).

Fourthly, casinos in Goa have helped in enhancing the tourism sector in the state (Herald, Panaji, 20 July 2017: 1). Casinos are known to bring about an enhancement in Public Services. Public services like health care, education and social services and social security are said to be enhanced as a consequence of the introduction of gambling (Evans and Topoleski 2003 in William et al., 2011: 126).

Despite the benefits accruing from casinos, time and again, however, individuals, opposition parties, organizations and different other agencies have opposed casinos in Goa. The opposing views and perspectives of the local community in Goa, with regard to casino development and the opposition of the Goan populace to casinos are dealt with in the next section.

Opposition to Casinos

Casinos have been promoted as means to enhance tourism economy, but such promotion is also accompanied by controversies. As far as Goa is concerned, scrutinizing the various protests against casinos in Goa and the objectives behind them, one finds that there are two main areas of

concern which fuel all opposition to casinos: firstly, the opposition to the concentration of offshore casinos in the Mandovi and secondly, the fear of the social costs and crime.

OFFSHORE CASINOS IN RIVER MANDOVI

In 1998 the State government amended the Public Gambling Act, 1976, to allow offshore casinos in Goa. In 2007 the Pratap Singh Rane's government gave licenses to five offshore casinos and the Leela group introduced 'Casino Rio' in River Sal but soon shifted it to River Mandovi due to opposition from locals in Salcete against the dredging of the river and the destruction of the traditional fishing industry so as to accommodate a floating casino (Buncombe 2007). On 20th May 2008, BJP activists held a protest against the operation of casinos in river Mandovi. There was a strong opposition to the docking of casinos in river Mandovi and a call to shift them out to the sea. From the time the BJP came to power, however, instead of banning the casinos or pushing them out to the sea, the BJP government attempted to locate them in rivers elsewhere: the four areas identified as the new possible locations were Aguada Bay and the three rivers of Sal, Chapora and Zuari. The Home Department invited stakeholders to submit their comments and objections, if any, to the proposed locations and received more than 2,450 letters of objections, with a strong reservation from the local fishing community expressing apprehension over the possible loss of their livelihood subsequent to the dredging of the waters to accommodate the casinos. (Pokerguru 2015). The Chicalim Sarpanch firmly opposed the proposal to shift the offshore casinos in the river off Chicalim. (The Goan, Panaji, 14 July 2016: 2). Commenting on offshore casinos the editorial on 'The Goan' stated that the offshore casinos in the river off Chicalim will ultimately change the complexion of the village including the surrounding areas. Vehicular traffic will increase and disturbances during the night will be a common phenomenon (The Goan, Panaji, 15 July 2016: 6).

Further, a newly formed front called 'United for Mother Goa', held a token protest led by Mr. Prajal Sakhardande against offshore casinos demanding that the offshore casinos be shifted as they have polluted the river affecting marine life (Herald, Panaji, 29 August 2016: 3). There have been protests even at an individual level. Social activist Mr. Kashinath Shetye filed a Public Interest Litigation case in the High Court of Bombay at Goa contending that as per the Act, table gaming and gambling board is permitted only in an offshore vessel, and not in vessels in the inland waters. To permit live gambling the location of such vessels must be at a distance of 12 nautical miles or else they are violating the law of the land (Herald, Panaji, 29 September 2016). Commenting on offshore casinos being an eyesore, Gomes (2016) wrote, 'What offshore casinos have brought to Goa

is increased traffic congestion, on land and water, a visual eyesore that has ruined the magnificent waterway -Mandovi - and resentment among local residents. These floating monsters anchored in Mandovi are an ugly spot’.

Besides, concerns have also been raised over the sewage that is dumped into the Mandovi by the offshore casinos cum floating restaurants. The Goa State Pollution Control Board conducted studies in 2014 and 2015 revealing that the water in river Mandovi had alarmingly high levels of coliform bacteria. Also, a massive study carried out over six years by National Institute of Oceanography (2002-2007) showed that river Mandovi water had levels of bacteria far higher than the permissible limits rendering the river unsafe for consumption, recreational bathing and water sports. The authorities, however, gave a clean chit to the offshore vessels stating that they have complied by the conditions required with regards to the disposal of sewage (Herald, Panaji, 21 January 2015).

Casinos, Crime and Social Costs

Protest against on shore casinos began much earlier. On 11 September 1992, the then Director of Goa’s Diocesan Service Center for Social Action (DSCSA) opposed the government’s move to set up casinos stating that they will further deteriorate the moral fabric of the Goan society (Ucanews 1992) Voluntary groups including BailanchoManch deplored the move to give respectability to gambling stating that it will invite organized crime (Ucanews 1996). Zubair Ahmed in a BBC News item entitled ‘From hippy hang-out to casino capital’ stated that ‘Goa is on the road to becoming the casino capital of South Asia’(Zubair 2007). The same write up quoted the then opposition leader Mr. Parrikar condemning the casinos and labeling them ‘criminal oriented, prostitution oriented’. Yet another time, even the Independence Day celebrations were marked by protests against the casinos. Sudip Dalvi who swam the Mandovi protested against the casino vessels parked midstream in river Mandovi saying ‘The casino lobby, the drugs mafia and prostitution rackets are together a nexus of evil, and have common clients’ (sify.com 2013). Sabina Martins of Aam Aaraat Aadmi Against Gambling (AAAAG) claimed that the casino entry into Goa has increased the rate of crime, drunken rage and rise of escort services in the area, while the government is busy minting money and indifferent to the local issues (Pokerguru 2016).

Is there a Solution to the Problems of Offshore Casinos and Crime?

Firstly, gambling tourism has the potential to create environmental problems, degrading the ecology of the place and increasing the pollution levels of the surroundings beyond the accepted and permitted limits. Traffic volume increases with the opening of casinos, and the transportation

issues, traffic related problems and driving hazards can cause great frustration. The situation does become grim with regards to traffic volume leading to vehicular congestion, and noise and air pollution (Perdue et al. 1995 in Moufakkir and Timothy 2014: 92).

One of the ways in which the disorder created by the clutter of the casinos in Mandovi may be reduced is by taking a leaf from Hong Kong. In Hong Kong the casino ships leave port and sail out to the sea each evening and the patrons gamble in the deep seas all through the night (Gomes 2016: 8). Or they could be restricted to onshore casinos to be permitted in 5 star hotels only. There is no necessity that the casinos should be offshore. Casinos on Mandovi occupy a large space of the river causing damage to the river ecology and inconvenience to the ferry commuters. They also add to the daily traffic violations of ‘No Parking’ rules by both private vehicles and public taxis ferrying casino customers. They could be restricted to onshore casinos just as they are in Daman, Sikkim, Nepal and in the world capital of gambling Las Vegas (The Navhind Times, Panaji, 21 July 2017).

The Chief Minister, Mr. Parrikar announced during the monsoon session of the state Assembly that the government will not issue any more fresh casino licenses to five-star hotels and will put a cap on the number of offshore casinos in Mandovi limiting the number to only five. The government will also amend the Goa Gambling Act and will not permit casino vessels in the river Mandovi after three years but they will be given the option of moving on to the land in the specially designated entertainment zone (The Navhind Times, Panaji, 25 July 2017: 1). Curchorem, Canacona and Mopa are some of the places which are already bidding to host the land casinos (The Navhind Times, Panaji, 26 July 2017: 10).

Efforts at creation of an efficient transportation system can cope with the increase in the number of visitors by reducing the traffic congestion on roads. Williams et al (2001: 37) states that casinos add to infrastructure value of the community, though not to a great extent, especially, when it leads to construction of upgrades like better roads, electrical supply and sewage facilities.

Secondly, an assumption prevalent among people is that there exists a linkage between casinos and crime. The crime rate in Goa, however, has not increased because of casinos (Navhind Times, Panaji, 20 July 2017: 1). In fact on the floor of the state Assembly, it was stated that the crime rate in the state ‘had fallen for three consecutive years from 4467 cases in 2014 to 2693 in 2016 (Gomantak Times, Panaji, 24 July 2017: 3).

It must be noted that casinos are mostly owned by corporations which fall under the purview of the government regulations (Walker, 2013 in Benton, 2015: 17). As such, what is of real concern is whether there is any conclusive proof of the increase of crimes associated with casinos such as money

laundering, drug trafficking, theft, abuse, prostitution, etc. wherein criminal, organized gangs are involved.

Research seeking a linkage between casinos and crime has proven to be inconclusive. Vong (2004 in Benton 2015: 23) claims that there has been a decrease in organized crime in Macau, as a result of market pressure forcing the local casino companies, since 2002, to beef up their administration and gaming management so as to prevent the infiltration of organized criminal gangs. Lo (2005 in Benton 2015: 23) also found a decrease in organized crime post 2002. In Singapore, for instance, a Casino Regulatory Authority has been established to achieve its twin objectives of 'keeping crime out of casinos and ensuring the integrity of gaming' (Henderson 2012: 142). Arguably such regulatory infrastructure does help arresting casino related crimes.

Gambling or pathological, compulsive gambling with incidences of bankruptcy, alcoholism, drug addiction, divorce, suicide, etc., destroy individuals and their families. The Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming at the University of Macau (ISCG 2009 in Benton 2015: 22) conducted two surveys in Macau and found that problem gamblers in Macau increased from 4.3 percent (or 13,666 people) in 2003 to 6 percent (or 24,162 people) in 2007. Hong Kong and Singapore, the neighbours of Macau, however, did not experience a similar increase in the numbers of problem gamblers. According to the statistics of the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming (2009 in Benton 2015: 22), the average rate of problem gambling, both in Hong Kong and Singapore decreased from 5.9 percent in 2001 to 4.5 percent in 2008 and 4.4 percent to 2.9 percent from 2004 to 2008 respectively.

The study of Wan et al (2011: 63) investigating the social consequences of casinos revealed a number of social benefits such as an increase in personal income, greater financial powers, improved landscape, development of infrastructure, and also facilities providing entertainment; and recreation visibly enlarged after the expansion of casinos in Macau from 2002. The surplus budget allowed the government to double up the public expenditure on environmental protection during 2004 and 2006 (DSPA 2006 in Wan et al., 2011: 70). The entertainment and recreation facilities also saw an increase since the government stipulated that apart from the taxes payable to the government the concessionaires were also under an obligation to contribute towards urban development, tourism, social security, academics, charity, etc. (DICJ 2009 in Yim et al. 2011: 70).

With no definite units of measurement to measure quality of life in gaming regions, research around quality of life has yielded mixed results. The tourists visiting Macao repeatedly, and the high quality of life are directly connected and as such the residents completely support gambling activities there (McCartney 2005). Casino gaming is associated with

improved quality of life with respect to poverty, income, employment and ownership of houses as revealed by the study of Gonzales, Lyson and Mauer (2007). Further, Rato and Davey (2012) are positive with regard to quality of life in terms of 'life expectancy, health, interpersonal relationships, sense of security, communication, economic situation, security for the future, etc. Macau, according to Vong (2010) has achieved a strong financial base and surplus revenue registering a surplus of US \$13.6 billion (Xinhua News Agency 2008) because of casinos. Credit is also due to the government for deciding to share the surplus revenue by giving them cash allowances increasing the personal income of Macao residents.

STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINIMIZE THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CASINOS IN GOA

The paper also explores the possibility of carrying on gambling activities in the casinos while simultaneously attempting to investigate how best the adverse impacts of casino development may be reduced to the bare minimum by introducing appropriate policies. Several social benefits accrue from encouraging casinos but the question to consider is whether the positive consequences outweigh the negative impacts.

It is speculated by experts and casino owners that the casino industry will be experiencing a rapid expansion in the next few decades especially because of the demand created by the fast-increasing Indian middle class who enjoy travelling and the simultaneous increase in the foreign tourists. Casinos, though welcomed by private entrepreneurs and government, are nevertheless controversial type of visitor attractions which engender much deliberation, both, for and against.

Singapore, for instance, has brought about a paradigm shift in its belief system which considered gambling to be something that has to be resisted, by proceeding with the construction of casino inclusive integrated resorts. The casinos are believed to be essential for the financial viability of the integrated resort. In Singapore a public consultation exercise through letters, emails, polls, surveys, dialogues, assessed the public sentiments vis-à-vis casinos in Singapore revealing that about half of the respondents agreed with the potential of casinos to contribute to Singapore's economic and tourism development, and at the same time disagreed that the social or negative consequences will outweigh the benefits. (Public Consultation 2014) An admission fee was envisaged for locals to limit problem gambling. Taking a cue from Integrated Resorts promoted in Singapore, casino policy in Goa, without doing away completely with the gambling component considered necessary for the financial

viability of the project, should be revamped to bring about a metamorphosis of the casinos into some eye-catching arcades or galleries offering, besides gambling opportunities, facilities for shopping, dining, conferencing, water theme park, museums, aquariums, conventions and exhibitions as well as theatre. The two Integrated Resorts in Singapore, according to Leu and Ko (2012: 174), have successfully achieved their objective of attracting tourists to Singapore which has experienced an increase in total visitor arrivals from 9.7 million in 2009 to 11.6 million in 2010.

Goa like Macau, is a former Portuguese enclave and is a state within the most important emerging economy, India, and has been promoting gambling to boost tourism and economic development. As such, it is imperative that it endeavours to devise a system of regulation that will keep in check the possible adverse consequences resulting from the promotion of casinos. In the primarily beach-based Goan tourism, casinos increase and diversify the attractions offered by the destinations thereby revitalizing Goan tourism. Combining the casinos, beach, heritage sites, hospitality of the people, and the other attractions of leisure, the tourism industry in Goa will contribute to the enhancement and the development of the destination image thereby drawing more tourists to Goa.

The casino gaming industry in Goa is aiming at expansion of its activities and in this process of its continual growth and evolution, Goa's unshackled casino industry needs to be regulated by an official gaming commission. The commission that will regulate operations of both offshore and onshore casinos and also enjoy penalizing powers fashioned on the lines of the Nevada Gaming Commission was first announced in 2010, but despite consistent demands by civil society, has not yet been established to check any illegalities. It was reported earlier that the state Law Department had vetted the draft rules banning all Goans and those under the age of 21 years from entering the casinos. However, it is believed that the Goa Public Gaming Rules 2017 are still being fine-tuned and revised to see to it that visitors on board the casinos are non-Goans and above 21 years of age (Verma 2017). According to latest reports the policy is supposed to be ready in about six months from now, that is, by January or February 2018 (The Navhind Times, Panaji, 26 July 2017: 10).

Goans are aware of the potential negative externalities of casino development and would like them to be contained through necessary safeguards. The establishment of a Casino controlling Regulatory Authority/Gaming Commissioner is absolutely necessary and the earlier it is established the better it would be.

The onus of reducing, if not eradicating problem gambling by planning and launching gambling prevention programmes is on the government as well as casino operators. It is necessary that the government exercise greater control over

all commercials promoting delusional beliefs with regard to gambling paybacks. The government can and should use all media at its disposal for awareness campaigns to better inform the gamblers of the dire consequences of excessive gambling. Casino operators must also be encouraged by the government through various incentives to exercise corporate social responsibility and make efforts to identify potential problem gamblers and advise them appropriately.

Some checks and balances to be prescribed may include: government policy restricting youngsters from working in the casinos by increasing the age limit for casino workers thereby preventing dropouts from schools and colleges; putting in place a comprehensive master plan by the government with guidelines for environmental protection to prevent water pollution and development of better infrastructure and transportation system which would encourage smooth flow of traffic and alleviate traffic jams and congestions; small and medium-sized local businesses contributing to sustainable tourism development but in danger of being cannibalized by the larger casinos may be provided with necessary business training and financial subsidies to help them enhance their capabilities to withstand any competition from the casinos; Denial of entry to locals as is done in Nepal or in South Korea, or entry fees to casinos being increased to deter the locals from gambling. If locals are at all allowed there must be regulations to encourage only mature and responsible gambling behavior and exclude problem gamblers from casinos; establishing exclusionary measures and visit limits to bar a person from either entering the casino or to put a cap on the number of times that a person may enter the casino; introducing casino surveillance system ensuring continuance in the recording of the gambling activities; not permitting the use of credit cards and postdated cheques by local citizens if they are allowed to enter casinos; making violation of these regulations strictly liable to disciplinary action such as imposition of fines, suspension of license or even revocation of licenses of the casino operators by the regulatory authority; tackling gambling addiction by initiating educational awareness to provide counselling for gamblers; and introducing casino crime prevention authority with stringent laws to curb casino related crimes.

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