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The Impact of Online Gambling on Marital Harmony: A Case Study of Kembang Paseban Village, Batanghari Regency

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Abstract

The rapid development of digital technology has expanded access to online gambling, generating complex social problems that extend beyond individual behavior and increasingly affect household stability. This study aims to analyze the factors underlying community involvement in online gambling and examine its effects on marital harmony in Kembang Paseban Village, Batanghari Regency, from the perspectives of Islamic law and Indonesian positive law. A qualitative case study design was employed, with data collected through in-depth interviews, direct observation, and documentation involving community members engaged in or affected by online gambling, including married couples, community leaders, and village officials. Data were analyzed through data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The study was conducted from June 2025 to May 2026, covering proposal development, data collection, data analysis, and report preparation. The findings indicate that involvement in online gambling is associated with economic pressure, easy access to smartphones and the internet, social-environmental influences, psychological factors, and limited understanding of religious and moral values. Online gambling undermines marital harmony through economic instability, debt accumulation, stress, emotional instability, deteriorating communication, loss of trust, family conflict, neglect of household responsibilities, and, in some cases, divorce. From the perspective of Islamic law, online gambling constitutes *maisir*, which is prohibited because of its potential to undermine wealth, intellect, and family continuity. These findings demonstrate that online gambling is a multidimensional problem that weakens household resilience and marital

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harmony. The study highlights the importance of strengthening family supervision, religious and moral education, digital literacy, community participation, and government policies aimed at preventing online gambling. It further contributes to Islamic family law scholarship by clarifying the social and familial consequences of online gambling within the context of Islamic and Indonesian legal perspectives.

Keywords: Online Gambling; Marital Harmony; Household Resilience; Islamic Family Law; Family Conflict

INTRODUCTION

The phenomena observed in the current era of globalization indicate that social life is increasingly shaped by specific patterns of social behavior. Community behavior tends to evolve in response to the growing complexity of modern life, driven by advancements in technology, mechanization, industrialization, and urbanization. These developments have also contributed to the erosion of established social values within society, which, in turn, has become one of the underlying factors in the emergence of various social problems.

Currently, internet access has reached all segments and strata of society. Individuals—including adults, adolescents, and even children are increasingly familiar with and utilize internet technologies. The internet undoubtedly provides numerous conveniences that facilitate various aspects of human life. However, as it continues to evolve, its expanding range of uses also creates opportunities for misuse by certain parties seeking personal gain.

According to data from the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center, the circulation of funds associated with online gambling in Indonesia in 2023 reached hundreds of trillions of rupiah, with millions of individuals identified as active participants (Pelaporan & Keuangan, 2023). This phenomenon indicates that online gambling is no longer a marginal activity; rather, it has evolved into a national social issue with far-reaching implications for household economic stability and social order (Kominfo RI, 2023).

Gambling is a form of deviant behavior that has recently become increasingly prevalent within society. According to Kartini Kartono, gambling constitutes a social pathology that is difficult to eradicate across generations. This social disorder manifests in behaviors that violate and deviate from established social norms. Kartono further emphasizes that gambling is prohibited within Javanese cultural norms. In Javanese society,

it is categorized as part of the "5-M" behaviors that must be avoided: consuming alcohol and engaging in intoxication (*minum-minuman keras*), engaging in prostitution (*madon*), committing theft (*maling*), using narcotics (*madat*), and participating in gambling or betting activities (*main judi/bebotohan*) (Zurohman et al., 2016; Nasution, 2019).

The advancement of information and communication technologies has significantly influenced gambling, with online gambling emerging as a rapidly growing global phenomenon affecting individuals, families, and society. The global online gambling market was valued at USD 66.7 billion in 2020 and is projected to grow at a CAGR of 11.5% from 2021 to 2028. This growth has contributed to various social problems, particularly those affecting marital harmony and social well-being (Walker & Sobel, 2016; Research, 2021).

Marital harmony constitutes a fundamental pillar of social life. In this context, online gambling can act as a significant trigger of conflict within the family. A study by Abate indicates that 60% of couples involved in online gambling experience increased tension and conflict, which frequently culminate in divorce. This finding demonstrates that online gambling not only affects the individuals directly involved but also has the potential to damage relationships among family members (Abate et al., 2026) .

Marital harmony is a crucial aspect of social life. From an Islamic perspective, this harmony encompasses not only emotional dimensions but also financial and spiritual well-being. Online gambling, which often involves uncontrolled financial expenditure, can disrupt the economic stability of the family. This study aims to further explore how online gambling affects marital harmony and social well-being, by examining it in relation to Islamic law and the positive law applicable in Indonesia (Hasrianta, 2018).

In Indonesia, gambling is prohibited under Article 303 of the Criminal Code (*KUHP*) and Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions, as amended by Law No. 19 of 2016, which prohibits the distribution and/or access of electronic gambling content. Despite these regulations, online gambling continues to grow alongside increasing internet penetration, which exceeded 78% of the population in 2023 (APJII, 2023). High internet accessibility facilitates the proliferation of online gambling platforms and generates various social impacts, particularly on marital harmony (Supriyadi, 2020; Sari, 2025).

Marital harmony is a crucial aspect of social life, influenced by various factors, including economic conditions, communication patterns, and individual behavior. A study conducted by Sari indicates that financial problems resulting from online gambling can

trigger conflicts within the household. In certain cases, individuals involved in online gambling experience significant financial losses, which may disrupt the economic stability of the family. In this context, it is important to understand how online gambling affects the dynamics of relationships among family members, particularly in terms of communication and decision-making processes.

The phenomenon of online gambling in Indonesia extends beyond participation and transaction volumes, affecting social interactions and broader public life. According to the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center, online gambling participants increased from approximately 3.7 million in 2023 to 8.8 million in 2024, with 71.6% earning less than IDR 5 million per month. This group is particularly vulnerable to debt and household economic pressure (Indonesia.go.id, 2025; Agustriana & Sugiarti, 2024). These findings demonstrate that online gambling has spread beyond economic elites to lower-income groups with internet access.

The social impact of online gambling is also evident in its contribution to the deterioration of family structures, particularly through the rising number of divorces driven by economic strain and gambling-related behavior (Susanti, 2021). Data released by the Religious Court of Muara Bulian indicate that throughout 2025, online gambling emerged as one of the dominant factors prompting couples to file for divorce. This finding reflects the direct impact of gambling behavior on household stability and interpersonal relationships within society.

From a sociological perspective, gambling constitutes a form of social deviance that arises from weakened social control and shifts in the structure of opportunities within society. The anomie theory proposed by Émile Durkheim explains that rapid social change can lead to a state of normlessness, in which individuals become more vulnerable to engaging in deviant behavior. In the context of digital society, the ease of access to online platforms, combined with limited family supervision, can further increase the likelihood of individual involvement in online gambling practices (Mustofa, 2026).

From an economic perspective, online gambling is often perceived as a shortcut to obtaining instant financial gain (Walker, 2016). However, numerous studies indicate that gambling tends to result in financial losses, debt accumulation, household conflict, and even subsequent criminal behavior. Within the family context, the impacts of online gambling may trigger divorce, domestic violence, and economic neglect (Anam & Mukaromah, 2025). This

demonstrates that online gambling is not merely a legal issue, but also a complex social and moral problem.

The Indonesian government has undertaken various measures to address this issue, including website blocking by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Indonesia, the enhancement of digital literacy, and law enforcement actions against perpetrators and online gambling networks. However, the effectiveness of these policies continues to face significant challenges, particularly due to the transnational nature of online gambling and the use of encryption technologies that are difficult to trace (Kementerian Komunikasi dan Informatika RI, 2023).

At the local level, the phenomenon of online gambling has also begun to manifest in various regions, including Kembang Paseban Village. Based on preliminary observations, there are indications of increasing involvement of individuals within the productive age group in online gambling activities, which in turn affects household economic conditions and social relationships among community members. This situation raises concerns regarding family resilience and the overall social stability of the local community.

Recent studies indicate that online gambling directly affects the social and economic well-being of local communities. A study in a rural community in Batu City found that online gambling undermines household economic stability, contributing to debt, family conflict, and reduced social functioning (Rangkuti & Putra, 2025). Moreover, online gambling, often disguised as online games, increasingly attracts younger generations through easy access to social media and digital platforms (Lubis et al., 2022). Thus, its negative impacts extend beyond entertainment, making it a contemporary cultural issue requiring serious attention.

In Kembang Paseban Village, Batanghari Regency, the phenomenon of online gambling has begun to emerge prominently. The local community, particularly the younger generation, is increasingly exposed to various online gambling platforms that are easily accessible via smartphones. According to a survey conducted by the National Narcotics Agency of Indonesia in 2021, approximately 15% of respondents in Batanghari reported having been involved in online gambling activities. This figure indicates a pressing need for further research to examine the impact of online gambling on household life in the area.

Although previous studies have established that online gambling causes significant economic, psychological, and social consequences for families, important research gaps remain. Existing studies have primarily examined its socioeconomic impacts, household

conflict, and social control in rural communities. Husaen, (2025) identified online gambling as a contributor to household disharmony through financial problems and declining trust, while Rafiqah & Rasyid, (2023) associated gambling-related financial losses with family socioeconomic problems. Supriyadi, (2020) examined its effects on household harmony, whereas Rangkuti & Putra, (2025) emphasized its broader economic and social consequences. However, limited research has examined online gambling within the specific socio-cultural context of Kembang Paseban Village, Batanghari Regency, particularly regarding the factors driving participation, access and transaction patterns, and their multidimensional effects on household harmony.

This gap is significant because online gambling in rural communities cannot be viewed solely as an individual economic or behavioral problem. Its development is influenced by technological accessibility, social environment, psychological reinforcement, economic vulnerability, and religious and moral values. A comprehensive examination is therefore needed to understand how these factors interact and affect economic stability, psychological well-being, communication, trust, social relationships, and marital continuity. Understanding these interconnected dimensions is essential for developing preventive strategies responsive to local community conditions.

The novelty of this study lies in its integrated examination of online gambling and marital harmony within the local context of Kembang Paseban Village. Rather than focusing exclusively on the consequences of gambling, this study simultaneously investigates the underlying economic, technological, social, psychological, and religious-moral factors, as well as the forms, access mechanisms, and transaction patterns that facilitate sustained gambling behavior. Furthermore, the study combines empirical findings with Islamic law and Indonesian positive law perspectives, thereby providing a multidimensional understanding of online gambling as a family, social, moral, and legal problem.

Theoretically, this study draws on social deviance, particularly Durkheim's concept of anomie, which explains how social structural changes and weakened social control may increase vulnerability to deviant behavior. Social learning theory further explains how gambling behavior can be acquired and reinforced through peer interaction and the surrounding environment, while addictive behavior theory accounts for psychological reinforcement and the tendency to chase losses. From an Islamic legal perspective, *Maqasid al-Shariah* strengthens the analysis through the principles of protecting wealth (*hifẓ al-mal*),

intellect (*hifẓ al-'aql*), and lineage or family continuity (*hifẓ al-nasl*). Together, these perspectives provide a framework for analyzing the relationship between online gambling and household disharmony.

Accordingly, this study focuses on examining the factors underlying online gambling involvement, the forms and patterns of online gambling practices, the mechanisms of access and digital transactions, and the economic, psychological, and social impacts on household harmony in Kembang Paseban Village, Batanghari Regency. The study also analyzes these findings from the perspectives of Islamic law and Indonesian positive law. Through this focus, the research seeks to provide an empirically grounded and theoretically informed explanation of how online gambling weakens family resilience and marital harmony, while offering practical implications for families, communities, religious institutions, and government authorities.

METHODS

This study employs a qualitative research design with a case study approach, aimed at gaining an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon of the impact of online gambling on marital harmony in Kembang Paseban Village, Batanghari Regency. This approach is selected for its capacity to comprehensively explore social realities, as well as the experiences and perceptions of the research subjects. In terms of research design, this study adopts a descriptive qualitative approach, which aims to systematically describe the facts and characteristics of the object under investigation based on empirical data obtained from the field. The research focuses on the actual conditions of communities affected by online gambling, particularly in relation to the dynamics of household life.

The research participants consist of residents of Kembang Paseban Village who are involved in or affected by online gambling, either directly or indirectly, including married couples, community leaders, and local officials. The sampling technique employed is purposive sampling, whereby informants are deliberately selected based on specific criteria, such as involvement in online gambling activities or having relevant experience regarding its impact on household life.

In terms of research instruments and data collection techniques, this study employs the following methods: 1) In-depth interviews to obtain detailed information regarding participants' experiences and the impact of online gambling on family harmony. 2) Direct

observation to examine the social conditions of the community and patterns of interaction within the research setting. 3) Documentation, including supporting data such as archives, records, and reports related to the phenomenon under investigation.

The data analysis technique is conducted qualitatively through three stages: 1) Data reduction, which involves the process of selecting and simplifying relevant data; 2) Data display, presented in the form of descriptive narratives; 3) Conclusion drawing, based on the identification of patterns, relationships, and meanings derived from the analyzed data. This study was conducted in Kembang Paseban Village, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province.

The research was carried out over approximately one year, beginning with the proposal development stage in June–July 2025, followed by data collection in October–December 2025, data analysis in January–February 2026, and concluding with the preparation of the final report in May 2026.

RESULTS

1. Factors Underlying the Influence of Online Gambling on Marital Harmony in the Kembang Paseban Community

a. Economic Factors

Based on the findings of this study in Kembang Paseban Village, economic factors emerge as the primary driver of community involvement in online gambling. The local economic structure is largely dominated by lower- to middle-income groups engaged in informal occupations such as daily laborers, farmers, and casual workers, resulting in unstable and generally low income levels. This financial instability makes it difficult for households to meet basic needs, including food, education, and other essential living expenses, thereby creating a strong incentive to seek quick sources of income.

Some informants perceive online gambling as an instant means of obtaining money without requiring substantial capital or specialized skills, a perception reinforced by others' experiences of winning. In addition, low levels of financial literacy—such as inadequate financial planning, limited saving habits, and poor money management—render individuals more vulnerable to involvement in such activities. Economic pressures within the household also contribute to stress and conflict, which are often expressed through engagement in

online gambling; however, this behavior ultimately exacerbates the situation, as it frequently results in further financial losses.

b. Technological Factors and Internet Accessibility

Based on the findings of this study in Kembang Paseban Village, the advancement of information and communication technologies has become a significant factor in the increasing prevalence of online gambling. The widespread use of smartphones and internet access has transformed community behavior, including in economic activities and entertainment. Nearly all members of the community possess smartphones with easy and affordable internet access, thereby creating greater opportunities for involvement in online gambling.

The emergence of gambling applications and websites packaged as engaging forms of entertainment, combined with simple registration and transaction processes, has further encouraged community participation. Many individuals initially engage out of curiosity—often influenced by social media or peer networks—but this involvement gradually develops into habitual behavior. The ease of access and high intensity of internet usage significantly increase the risk of addictive behaviors, including dependence on online gambling.

Within the household context, uncontrolled use of technology gives rise to various problems, including reduced family interaction, conflicts arising from the use of financial resources for gambling, and a decline in personal responsibility. Thus, the ease of access, lack of effective control, and high intensity of technology use constitute key factors driving the increasing prevalence of online gambling within the community.

c. Social environmental factors

In the Kembang Paseban community, where social ties are closely knit, intensive interactions facilitate mutual influence through persuasion, behavioral modeling, and information exchange. Many informants reported that they became acquainted with online gambling through their immediate social environment. This phenomenon is consistent with social learning theory, which posits that individuals tend to imitate behaviors perceived as beneficial or rewarding; consequently, observing others gain advantages encourages them to engage in similar activities.

Furthermore, the perception that online gambling constitutes a commonplace activity reinforces community involvement. This normalization arises from weak social control, whereby such practices are no longer regarded as deviant. Social pressure also plays a significant role, as individuals seek acceptance within their groups, thereby reflecting the presence of social conformity.

As a consequence, online gambling behavior becomes increasingly difficult to curb due to environmental reinforcement. Within the household context, this condition may trigger conflict, particularly when one party neglects their responsibilities, ultimately leading to a decline in communication quality and the weakening of emotional bonds.

d. Psychological Factors

Several informants reported that their involvement in online gambling initially stemmed from curiosity, influenced by social media exposure or stories of others' financial gains. Online gambling is also utilized as a form of entertainment and an escape from boredom, economic pressure, or domestic problems.

This phenomenon can be explained through the theory of addictive behavior, whereby individuals tend to repeat activities that provide immediate gratification. Small wins generate feelings of pleasure and reinforce the desire to continue playing. From the perspective of B. F. Skinner's behaviorism, intermittent or uncertain rewards further strengthen such behavior. Additionally, the phenomenon of *chasing loss* emerges, referring to the persistent attempt to recover losses driven by an irrational belief in eventual success.

Key psychological factors include curiosity, the need for entertainment, escapism from stress, expectations of rapid financial gain, and addiction. Consequently, individuals tend to experience behavioral changes such as irritability, social withdrawal, and neglect of family responsibilities, which ultimately trigger conflict, reduce the quality of communication, and weaken emotional bonds within the household.

e. Factors of Weak Understanding of Religion and Morals

Based on research conducted in Kembang Paseban Village, community involvement in online gambling is influenced by a weak understanding of religious teachings and moral values. Many individuals are unaware that gambling (maisir) is prohibited in Islam and instead

perceive it as a form of ordinary entertainment, thereby experiencing little to no sense of guilt. This condition reflects a gap between religious norms and social practices, which is further exacerbated by the limited internalization of religious values in everyday life.

From the perspective of Maqasid al-Shariah, online gambling contradicts the fundamental objectives of Islamic law, particularly in the protection of wealth (hifz al-mal), intellect (hifz al-'aql), and lineage (hifz al-nasl). Furthermore, within the concept of Hifz al-Usrah (family preservation), such practices undermine family harmony by neglecting economic responsibilities, triggering conflict, and diminishing the quality of communication.

Interview findings indicate that individuals involved in online gambling generally exhibit a low level of religious understanding, as reflected in their limited knowledge of the prohibition of gambling, weak moral awareness, minimal participation in religious activities, and poor self-control. These conditions render individuals more susceptible to the influence of online gambling practices, which ultimately pose a threat to the integrity and harmony of the household.

2. The Impact of Online Gambling on Household Harmony

a. Economic Factors

Online gambling causes individuals to incur substantial financial losses, thereby giving rise to serious problems related to household finances. These include difficulties in providing financial support for spouses and children, paying bills, meeting daily living needs, and covering children's educational expenses, among others. Under such circumstances, these pressures may ultimately lead to the breakdown of the household, given that economic stability constitutes a fundamental component of family life.

Due to addiction to online gambling and the excessive depletion of financial resources, including savings, individuals often resort to borrowing money from various sources and pawning their assets without careful consideration. This behavior further exacerbates their financial hardship, as debt accumulates and becomes increasingly unmanageable.

b. Psychological impact

Addiction to online gambling leads to frequent disputes, arguments, and prolonged conflicts within the household. Such conditions can result in disharmony, domestic violence, and ultimately divorce. Excessive gambling also triggers extreme emotional responses;

emotional instability often manifests in irritability, harsh speech, aggressive behavior, and even domestic abuse. These dynamics adversely affect the psychological well-being of other family members and further deteriorate familial relationships.

Moreover, individuals addicted to online gambling tend to spend excessive amounts of time engaging in gambling activities, which negatively impacts their work performance and reduces their attention to family responsibilities, both toward their spouses and their children.

c. Social environmental factors

Based on research conducted in Kembang Paseban Village, online gambling has emerged as a tangible social problem driven by the ease of access to technology, widespread internet penetration, and environmental influences. This activity is no longer merely individual in nature but has extended to affect the social structure, resulting in value shifts and the emergence of various social problems.

The most observable impact is the decline in the quality of social interaction. Individuals involved tend to spend excessive time gambling, thereby reducing communication with family and the broader community, fostering individualistic attitudes, and weakening interpersonal relationships. Furthermore, there is an increase in conflict—particularly within households—arising from financial difficulties and the neglect of responsibilities, indicating the role of online gambling as a factor contributing to family disorganization.

Online gambling also undermines social order through behavioral changes, such as emotional instability and low levels of social participation, which weaken social solidarity. This practice continues to spread through processes of social learning, whereby individuals imitate behaviors observed in their surrounding environment.

Additional impacts include a heightened potential for criminal activity due to economic pressure, mental health issues such as stress and depression, and the emergence of social stigma leading to marginalization. Moreover, financial losses further weaken household economic resilience and overall social welfare.

Overall, the social impacts of online gambling are complex and multidimensional, encompassing the deterioration of social interaction, family conflict, disruption of social order, normalization of deviant behavior, increased criminality, mental health challenges, social stigma, and economic vulnerability. These conditions necessitate comprehensive interventions across multiple dimensions.

3. Forms and Patterns of Online Gambling in Society

a. Forms and Patterns of Online Gambling in Batanghari Regency

This phenomenon is clearly illustrated in the results of an in-depth interview with an informant (initials BS, 27 years old), who elaborated on personal experiences and patterns of media use in online gambling activities: "Nowadays, almost everyone owns a smartphone, so access is extremely easy. I personally usually play using my phone and never use a computer. It is more practical—I can play while lying down or relaxing. I often receive links from friends, and sometimes from WhatsApp groups consisting of people who also engage in gambling. In addition, advertisements or posts directing users to gambling sites frequently appear on Facebook. You just need to click, and you are immediately redirected—there is no need to search further. Sometimes links are also shared via Telegram, which is said to be more secure. In reality, there are many access points, not just one."

Initial E, 30 years old, who stated: "I initially had no knowledge of online gambling, but after joining a group of friends on WhatsApp, I frequently saw them sharing their winning results, with some earning millions. That made me curious, and eventually I decided to try it. After trying it, I realized how easy it was to access. Now, I find myself opening it more often, especially when I see others playing."

Initial F, 35 years old, who revealed:

"When playing on a smartphone, the advantage is that it is not visible to others. Family members assume that we are merely playing games or browsing social media, whereas in reality we are gambling. As a result, it feels more unrestricted, as there is no supervision."

Based on interview data with individuals directly involved in online gambling practices, it can be concluded that several types of games are particularly popular, such as Kakek Zeus, Mahjong, and Bonanza. Although these games possess differing characteristics—ranging from chance-based mechanisms to those involving elements of strategy and cognitive skills—they all carry a high level of risk, particularly in fostering addictive behavior. This is further reinforced by psychologically designed game features, including engaging audiovisual effects, bonus systems, and uncertain winning probabilities, all of which may trigger impulsive actions and trap players in cycles of loss and attempts to recover those losses.

Furthermore, the frequency and duration of play indicate that online gambling has evolved from a form of entertainment into a structured and difficult-to-control habit. The gradual increase in playing intensity—from several times a week to nearly daily engagement,

even extending to hours within a single day—reflects processes of habituation and behavioral reinforcement. Emotional factors, such as the desire to recover losses (loss chasing), combined with the ease of access provided by digital technology, further intensify individual involvement. Consequently, this behavior not only affects financial and psychological conditions but also disrupts social life and family harmony due to reduced interaction and communication.

Overall, it can be concluded that the combination of addictive game types and the increasing frequency and duration of play demonstrates a strong tendency toward addictive behavior. What initially begins as a recreational activity gradually transforms into a compulsive habit with wide-ranging consequences, thereby requiring serious attention from individuals, families, and the broader social environment.

b. Access Method and Transaction System

Access to online gambling in Kembang Paseban Village is characterized by a very high level of ease, as individuals need only a smartphone and internet connection to engage in such activities without spatial or temporal constraints. The process is simple and standardized, typically beginning with the receipt of links via friends or social media, followed by quick registration requiring minimal personal information and little to no identity verification. This low barrier to entry facilitates rapid user participation, while digital transaction systems—such as mobile banking and e-wallets—enable fast and seamless deposits and withdrawals, often within minutes. As reflected in interview data, this convenience not only attracts new users but also encourages repeated engagement, particularly because individuals can quickly replenish funds after losses.

Moreover, the speed and anonymity of digital transactions contribute to reduced financial awareness and increased impulsivity. The shift from cash-based to digital payments alters individuals' perception of money, making expenditures feel less tangible and more difficult to control. This condition, combined with the use of intermediary accounts and automated systems, creates a sense of security despite the lack of transparency regarding the flow of funds. Consequently, users may take greater financial risks without fully understanding the implications.

At the same time, the private nature of smartphone use weakens social and familial supervision, allowing gambling activities to occur covertly. Family members are often unaware of such behaviors, as they are easily disguised as ordinary digital activities. Overall, the combination of easy access, rapid transaction systems, anonymity, and limited social

control forms a reinforcing ecosystem that sustains and intensifies online gambling behavior, increasing the risk of addiction and its associated social and financial consequences.

DISCUSSION

Based on the research findings, online gambling has a significant impact on the decline of household harmony in Kembang Paseban Village. The primary effects identified encompass economic, psychological, and social dimensions. From an economic perspective, most individuals involved in online gambling experience a deterioration in their financial condition due to uncontrolled expenditures, which subsequently trigger conflicts within the family. This condition is consistent with findings indicating that the majority of participants come from lower-middle economic groups that are particularly vulnerable to financial pressure.

Moreover, from a psychological standpoint, addiction to online gambling leads to an increase in negative emotions such as stress, anxiety, and aggression, which directly affect communication between partners. This reinforces the indication that household conflict is not solely driven by economic factors but also by emotional instability and a decline in the quality of interpersonal interactions within the family.

From a social perspective, involvement in online gambling also contributes to a decrease in trust between partners and, in some cases, results in divorce. Local data indicate the occurrence of divorce cases associated with online gambling in Batanghari Regency, suggesting that this phenomenon has tangible consequences for family stability.

The findings of this study are consistent with a range of previous research. For instance, a study by Husaen (2025) indicates that online gambling is a primary factor contributing to household disharmony, particularly due to financial problems and the erosion of trust. Similarly, research conducted by Rafiqah & Rasyid, (2023) demonstrates that financial losses resulting from online gambling can trigger family conflicts.

These findings are also in line with the study by Supriyadi (2020), which reveals that more than 60% of couples experience increased conflict as a result of online gambling. From a sociological perspective, this phenomenon can be explained through Social Deviance Theory, wherein online gambling behavior is understood as a form of deviance arising from weakened social control and transformations in social structure.

Nevertheless, this study offers a distinct contribution by specifically examining the local context of Kembang Paseban Village, demonstrating that the impacts of online gambling are not confined to urban areas but have also permeated local community settings.

The findings of this study have broad implications, both theoretically and practically. From a theoretical perspective, this research reinforces the understanding of online gambling as a multidimensional social phenomenon, particularly within the frameworks of Islamic law and positive law. In Islamic law, gambling (Maisir) is explicitly prohibited due to its speculative nature and its potential to harm others, while under Indonesian positive law it is also classified as a criminal offense.

From a practical standpoint, these findings carry important implications for several stakeholders. For society, they highlight the need to increase awareness of the negative impacts of online gambling on family life. For the government, they provide a basis for formulating preventive policies, such as enhancing digital literacy and strengthening the regulation and monitoring of online gambling platforms. For religious institutions, the findings underscore the importance of reinforcing moral education and religious values to prevent deviant behavior.

Furthermore, this study emphasizes the crucial role of the family as the primary system of social control in preventing family members from becoming involved in online gambling practices.

This study has several limitations. First, it employs a qualitative approach with a focus on a specific geographic area; therefore, the findings cannot be broadly generalized to other regions. Second, limitations in data collection—particularly related to the sensitivity of respondents in disclosing their involvement in online gambling—may have affected the depth and richness of the information obtained.

Third, this study does not extensively examine clinical psychological aspects, such as the level of addiction or potential mental health disorders associated with online gambling. Therefore, future research is recommended to adopt quantitative or mixed-method approaches in order to produce more comprehensive and robust analyses.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that online gambling has a substantial and multidimensional impact on marital harmony in Kembang Paseban Village, Batanghari Regency. The findings demonstrate that involvement in online gambling is influenced by interconnected economic,

technological, social, psychological, and religious-moral factors. Economic pressure and the perception of online gambling as a means of obtaining immediate financial gain, combined with easy access to smartphones and the internet, peer influence, psychological reinforcement, and limited understanding of religious values, contribute to the persistence of gambling behavior. These factors interact with one another and strengthen the tendency toward repeated and increasingly difficult-to-control gambling practices.

The impact of online gambling on household life is evident in three major dimensions. Economically, gambling causes financial instability, debt accumulation, and difficulties in fulfilling household and educational needs. Psychologically, it contributes to stress, emotional instability, irritability, and reduced attention to family responsibilities. Socially, it weakens communication and trust between spouses, increases household conflict, reduces social interaction, and may ultimately contribute to domestic violence and divorce. Thus, online gambling should not be understood merely as an individual behavioral or legal problem but as a multidimensional family and social problem that can weaken household resilience.

The study contributes to Islamic family law and social studies by demonstrating that the consequences of online gambling extend to the protection of wealth (*hifẓ al-mal*), intellect (*hifẓ al-'aql*), and family continuity (*hifẓ al-nasl*) within the framework of *Maqasid al-Shariah*. The findings also reinforce the relevance of social deviance, social learning, and addictive behavior perspectives in explaining the emergence and persistence of online gambling within local communities.

Practically, the findings imply that prevention requires an integrated approach involving families, communities, religious institutions, and government authorities. Families should strengthen communication, financial supervision, and mutual support; communities and religious institutions should enhance social and religious education; and government authorities should strengthen digital literacy, monitoring, prevention, and law enforcement. Future research should examine broader geographical settings and employ quantitative or mixed-method approaches to measure gambling intensity, psychological effects, financial losses, marital satisfaction, and family resilience.

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