

## **Domestic Violence due to Online Gambling (Scatter Slots) in Baringin Natam Village, Parlilitan District**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to analyze Domestic Violence Due to Online Gambling (Scatter Slots) in Baringin Natam village, Parlilitan district. The research method employed is qualitative research with a descriptive approach. Data collection techniques include participatory observation, semi-structured interviews, and documentation. According to research findings, online gambling such Higgs Domino (Scatter Slot) has created disturbing phenomena in the community of Baringin Natam village. Although easily accessible and played flexibly, most participants gather in specific places such as coffee shops. This phenomenon has disrupted the comfort and order of the local community. Factors contributing to the proliferation of online gambling include social networking, ease of access to games, and motivation to earn money. The negative impacts of online gambling, especially Higgs Domino, not only involve economic issues for players but also extend to internal household problems. Online gambling addiction leads to significant financial expenditures, dishonesty in household financial management, and conflicts between spouses. This phenomenon can even result in domestic violence, both verbal and physical. Addressing these issues requires improved prevention and intervention efforts.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence affects everyone, especially women, resulting in physical, psychological, sexual, or neglectful harm within the household, including threats, coercion, and unlawful deprivation of freedom (Government of Indonesia, 2004). Domestic violence is a crime against human dignity, a violation of human rights, and a form of discrimination. Any form of violence committed for any reason is unjustifiable. One of the causes of domestic violence is the influence of advancements in science and technology (IPTEK), which have brought about changes in societal life. The introduction of internet influence has significantly impacted societal norms. This technology is accessible to various segments of society, and both parents and adolescents use it without considering the positive or negative impacts of internet usage.

The massive use of the internet has also led to its misuse for online gambling. Sitanggang et al. (2023) is emphasizing that the development of information and communication technology has influenced the model and payment methods of gambling games. Traditional gambling required players to meet physically or use tangible means and pay with cash directly. However, contemporary gambling games can be conducted online via the internet, eliminating the need for physical meetings among players. In online gambling, players not only aim for victory but also need to be adept at using the internet and applying online gambling strategies. In this context, online payment transactions are employed. Winners in online gambling receive funds through electronic transactions.

Meanwhile, online gambling is a form of gambling conducted over the internet using electronic devices such as computers, laptops, tablets, or smartphones. In online gambling, players can place bets on various types of games including poker, blackjack, roulette, Scatter Slots, and others. The advantage of online gambling is that players can play anytime, anywhere without going to a physical casino. However, it's important to remember that playing online also carries the risk of losing money and can lead to addiction (Kusumo & Ramadhan, 2023). Online gambling is a form of addiction where initially it starts as just trying it out and winning stimulates the desire to repeat it with higher stakes, thinking that the more money is bet, the more winnings can be obtained. The amount of money used as a bet is found in the savings account of the perpetrator, and the computer or smartphone and the internet connection used as a tool to make online gambling. One of the online gambling among the community is Higgs Domino (Scatter Slot), which is an application capable of facilitating online gambling games.

Based on observations, the proliferation of online gambling (Scatter Slots) in Baringin Natam village, Humbang Hasundutan district, has caused unrest among the community, especially among housewives. This has led to frequent marital disputes, as husbands become lazy to work and rely solely on online gambling, resulting in financial losses and unstable family economies. Consequently, families become less harmonious, and conflicts arise due to irresponsibility towards the family. The addiction to online gambling is highly dangerous, affecting various age groups from parents to school-going children, who become lazy in their studies due to online gambling. People are unable to control their desire to gamble or to stop playing, even though they are aware of its negative impacts. They may feel anxious when attempting to quit gambling.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This study is a qualitative research aimed at understanding, discovering, gathering, organizing, and analyzing data. A specific type of qualitative descriptive research using field

research is employed in this study. The research was conducted in Baringin Natam village, Parlilian district. The subjects of this study were approximately 5 male parents. The timing of the study was flexible according to the subjects' situations and conditions to ensure effective continuation of the research and accuracy of the information obtained. The research duration was from October 2023 to the end of November 2023. Data collection methods included participatory observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The data sources consisted of both primary and secondary data. Purposive sampling was the information gathering method used in this study, ensuring that informant criteria were aligned with the research objectives. The analysis employed was qualitative analysis involving interactive analysis with three components: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the community of Baringin Natam village, online gambling such as Higgs Domino (Scatter Slot) is considered to significantly disturb their comfort and order. Despite the fact that playing online gambling (Scatter Slot) can be done anytime and anywhere, in Baringin Natam village, those who engage in these activities tend to gather at specific points such as coffee shops or other comfortable locations. The practice of online gambling (Scatter Slot) in Sawah village has been known for about five years, dating back to the COVID-19 pandemic period. Accessing online gambling (Scatter Slot) games is relatively easy, as anyone with a smartphone capable of connecting to the internet can participate. However, there are individuals who are not technologically savvy. Consequently, this situation often involves intermediaries known as "Bandars." Based on interviews with sources, it is observed that online gambling like Higgs Domino is predominantly engaged in by adults. This phenomenon represents a new social issue that can have significant negative impacts, as gambling in any form is inherently self-destructive and can harm others such as family members. Furthermore, opinions from some sources indicate that the online game Higgs Domino is highly sensational, implying that people from all walks of life have experienced this gambling game. Some start playing with small amounts of money, while others gamble with larger sums ranging from tens of thousands to millions of rupiah. As a result, playing Scatter Slots online has become addictive for many individuals. Initially, individuals start by simply trying out online gambling, like Higgs Domino, and winning can fuel their desire to repeat the experience with larger and larger bets. The thought process often revolves around the idea that the more money they bet, the greater their potential winnings. The funds used for betting typically come from the perpetrator's savings account, and they utilize a computer or smartphone with an internet connection as tools for online gambling.



Figure 1. Display of online gambling game (Scatter Slot)

This has also led to the proliferation of the phenomenon of online gambling Higgs Domino in the Baringin Natam community. Addiction to online gambling has resulted in domestic violence, causing disharmony within families and disputes between spouses. This is due to significant financial expenditures and the husband's irresponsibility in providing for the family, as he is more focused on playing online gambling (Scatter Slot).

### **3.1. Factors causing the phenomenon of online gambling (Scatter Slot) among the Baringin Natam community**

The causes or factors behind a phenomenon are often rooted in several aspects. In this research, the researcher found that factors influencing the proliferation of the Higgs Domino online gambling game among the Baringin Natam community include: Social environment and peer influence and Ease of Access Factor

#### *3.1.1. Social environment and peer influence*

Social environment refers to the condition where interaction exists among members of a community group. According to Kawi (2010), friendships are behaviors resulting from two or more individuals supporting each other. Friendship can also be defined as a relationship between two or more people sharing similar elements such as a tendency to want the best for each other, affection, empathy, honesty in behavior, and mutual understanding. The friendship environment can significantly influence and develop individual behavior. Therefore, the friendship environment is an example of a social environment. Factors within the friendship environment contributing to the proliferation of the Higgs Domino online gambling game may encompass various aspects, such as peer influence, enticing winnings, curiosity, easy access, and a means of self-entertainment. The interview was conducted on October 31, 2023, with M. Nainggolan (45 years old), a community member who uses the online gambling game (Scatter Slot). "I first started playing this online gambling game (Scatter Slot) during the pandemic. Initially, I saw my friend playing this game only at the coffee shop, and I became curious. My friend taught me how to play the online gambling game (Scatter Slot). At first, I just played casually without buying or selling chips, but over time my friend taught me tricks and tips to win, such as how to choose a good room and how to adjust bets to make money. I eventually decided to buy chips for 1 billion with a price of 60,000 which I bought from my friend himself. To be honest, at first, I was given a jackpot immediately so I started to be interested and curious about other jackpots. So, until now I still play this online gambling game Higgs Domino."

From the interview, it is shown that one of the primary factors motivating the aforementioned community to engage in online gambling like Higgs Domino is the most influential factor, namely the social environment. The social environment in this context specifically refers to the peer influence within their social circle. For instance, MN (45 years old) is influenced by his surroundings where they gather at a coffee shop, and most of them are already using this online gambling game. This sparked his curiosity, and to this day, he continues to use the game.

#### *3.1.2. Ease of Access Factor*

Another significant factor influencing the prevalence of the online gambling game Higgs Domino among the community is the ease of access to the game. Based on several findings from observations and interviews, researchers received responses from sources explaining that Higgs Domino online gambling game is easily accessible. It can be accessed simply with a mobile phone and internet data. Moreover, the game offers daily rewards such as charity funds, allowing even players without capital to participate. Additionally, the game provides a

feature to top up chips available at various counters and chip dealers at affordable prices. Nowadays, online shopping platforms also provide options to top up these game chips. In an interview excerpt with A. Sitohang (48 years old) on November 2nd, he stated: "I am also interested in playing this online gambling game Higgs Domino because of the ease of accessing the game with just a smartphone, internet quota, and the opportunity to earn money".



**Figure 2.** An illustration of society playing online gambling (Scatter Slots)

This is evidenced by findings that Higgs Domino players among the community interact by sharing information such as tips and tricks to win the game, as well as understanding the ease of access using just a smartphone and internet quota. They also inform each other about where and when players should engage in buying and selling domino chips they have won, and where they should purchase these chips as game assets. This community interaction facilitates easy access to the game and transactions. Another contributing factor to the prevalence of online gambling phenomenon in the Baringin Natam community is the material factor or money. In this regard, the research found that gambling indeed has the potential to generate income. This is because players can exchange their game chips for money at prices set by players or dealers. Here's a quote from an interview with Mr. A. Hutagalung (42 years old): "Why do I like this game? Firstly, as a player, I feel profitable because I win money. I played once and luckily won 30B, and after converting it, I received approximately Rp. 1,800,000. From there, I became more curious to earn even more."

### **3.2. The impact of online gambling (Scatter Slots) on families**

The online gambling (Scatter Slots) activities carried out by the community have negative impacts within the households of the players. Disputes often arise due to dishonesty in the use of household money. Typically, wives of husbands who regularly engage in online gambling (Scatter Slots) spend more money on buying internet packages and purchasing chips. Additionally, some wives have reported that their husbands who play online gambling (Scatter Slots) exhibit unstable emotions when they lose in these games. Disputes stemming from online gambling (Scatter Slots) often escalate into more serious conflicts. The frequent time spent accessing online gambling (Scatter Slots) leads to increased expenditure on non-household necessities, such as purchasing internet packages and chips."

Dishonesty can contribute to various marital problems including domestic violence. The possibility of domestic violence arises primarily from lack of communication, insufficient harmony, emotional attitudes, and inability to find solutions within the household (Santoso, 2022). Identification of forms of domestic violence in Baringin Natam related to online gambling activities has progressed to physical violence such as hitting with hands or throwing objects at home. The existing violence mainly manifests verbally through negative remarks

directed at family members, especially wives. Such violence is highly dangerous and can lead to actions or even divorce. However, verbal violence can escalate to dangerous actions, especially when players lose, potentially leading to physical violence or other actions.

Therefore, it is necessary to handle or prevent the prevalence of online gambling (Scatter Slots) within the community to avoid detrimental consequences. Measures such as giving verbal warnings to coffee shop owners or building owners and landlords who allow online gambling (Scatter Slots) as well as putting up warning signs about the dangers of gambling have shown low effectiveness. Control through legal sanctions is governed by Article 1 of Law Number 7 of 1974 concerning gambling, which states that all forms of gambling are criminal offenses. Social control by applying legal aspects as a control element also determines the success in preventing harmful deviant actions (Asmawati et al., 2019).

Thus, this will have implications for order, security, and harmony among residents and will serve as a role model for social control in other areas with similar or different cases. It minimizes the emergence of detrimental impacts on family members, especially children (Rafika, 2016). Additionally, prevention of domestic violence must be handled firmly. According to Nancy et al. (2013), values within the household are influential factors in achieving a harmonious family. A harmonious family cannot be achieved automatically or naturally. All efforts to create a harmonious family as mentioned above can perhaps be summarized into various steps as identified by Stinnet & DeFrain (1989), such as preserving religious life within the family, spending sufficient time together as a family, and fostering interaction among family members such as effective communication.

Therefore, marital harmony heavily relies on communication, where husbands and wives can communicate effectively. DeVito (2011) states that effective communication creates relationships focused on qualities like openness, empathy, motivation, positive attitudes, and equality. Making the family a top priority, maintaining the integrity of family members, fostering communication among family members, mutual understanding, patience, honesty, trust, avoiding negative assumptions about each other, respecting each other's opinions, loving and caring for all family members, being grateful for God's blessings sincerely, working diligently, not easily giving up, and being patient in supporting the family. Additionally, emotional maturity and age at the time of marriage, expressing feelings through love and tenderness create closeness and trust in a relationship.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, particularly the game Higgs Domino (Scatter Slots) has created a disturbing phenomenon in the community of Baringin Natam Village. Despite being easily accessible and flexible to play, most people involved gather in specific places such as coffee shops. This phenomenon has disrupted the comfort and order of the local community. Factors contributing to the prevalence of online gambling include social environments like friendships, ease of access to the games, and motivation to earn money. Social environments, especially friendships, play a significant role in introducing and encouraging individuals to participate in online gambling. Additionally, the ease of access via smartphones and internet connections significantly contributes to the popularity of these games. Another motivating factor is the hope of making money. However, the negative impacts of online gambling, especially Higgs Domino, not only involve economic issues for players but also extend to internal household problems. Online gambling addiction leads to significant financial expenditures, dishonesty in managing household finances, and conflicts between spouses. This phenomenon can even result in domestic violence, both verbally and physically. Addressing these issues requires better prevention and intervention efforts. Actions such as warning coffee shop owners,

installing warning signs about the dangers of gambling, and implementing legal sanctions have been suggested. Social control, through both legal measures and family values, is considered crucial to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of online gambling in Baringin Natam Village. Harmony, effective communication, and prioritizing family are also seen as important steps in creating a harmonious family.

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