

Beyond Risk: How the Z Generation Resist the Temptation of Online Games

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ABSTRACT

The increasing prevalence of online gaming has raised concerns about potential challenges facing students, particularly regarding mental health, financial stability, and economic implications. For Generation Z, online games have become a significant avenue for engaging in the informal economy, with gambling emerging as a prominent aspect facilitated by technological advancements. This study investigates how Generation Z navigates the allure of online gaming, resists temptations, and manages associated risks. Drawing upon Ulrich Beck's Risk Society theory and employing ethnographic methods, the research examines the decision-making processes of Generation Z players. Data collection involved interviews with respondents in various settings, supplemented by existing research in the field. The findings highlight several key issues, including the temptations of social media integration, peer influence, and financial gains, as well as the risks of accumulating debt and developing dependencies on gaming for entertainment and monetary rewards. These challenges pose significant implications for the mental well-being of Generation Z individuals.

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INTRODUCTION

The rapid advancement of information and communication technology has brought about significant changes across various facets of human life. One notable transformation lies in the realm of entertainment, particularly the proliferation of online gambling. Among the array of online gambling options, online slot games have emerged as a dominant force within the online entertainment industry (Supratama et al., 2022). This trend isn't confined to older demographics; it has also captured the interest of Generation Z, born between the mid-1990s and early 2010s (Rakmah, 2021). Often dubbed the "Z Generation," these individuals have grown up in an era characterized by pervasive technology and ubiquitous internet connectivity. Consequently, it becomes imperative to delve into how Generation Z perceives and engages with online gambling, as well as the temptations and risks that shape their attitudes towards this form of entertainment.

This research aims to examine the temptations and risks of playing online gambling games for the Z Generation. The Pew Research survey said Z Generation is a unique group because they grew up in a digital era that is very different compared to previous generations. They have easy access to the internet, interact with social media from a young age, and often feel intense social pressure from their peers. All of these factors can influence how they view, participate and respond to online gambling games. In the Risk Society Theory developed by Ulrich Beck. This theory explains the risk society that was born from modernization where with technological progress, the economy will be increasingly overshadowed by economic improvements (Beck, 1992). A risk may cause physical damage, including social and mental health caused by technological processes (Piliang, 2009). Meanwhile, online gambling and the like are forms of gambling that are increasingly popular in the digital era, but online gambling also has greater temptations and risks

compared to conventional gambling. Some of the risks associated with online gambling are addiction, financial loss, and fraud.

In the context of Risk Society theory, online game gambling behaviour is also caused by technological advances and has an impact on social functions, such as finances and mental health. In the Risk Society, the risk society was born with modernization. In online gambling, individuals involved in online gambling can be seen as part of a risk community that is influenced by existing social norms and values. However, online gambling behaviour can also influence the social norms and values that exist in society Apart from that (Harahap 2021). Examining the impact of the Higgs Domino Island game on society from a legal sociology perspective, this study highlights how this game has influenced social interactions and legal norms in society (Harahap, 2021). The results of this research reveal that the Higgs Domino Island game has created a new phenomenon in society, where active players in this game become part of a community that has its own rules and norms. In some cases, interactions in this game also give rise to conflicts between players which can have an impact on social order. This research highlights the importance of understanding how online gaming can influence social dynamics and legal norms in society (Harahap, 2021).

Dwi, Tyas, and Adi (2023) discussed their research findings on various aspects related to the impact of the Higgs Domino game and online gambling on teenagers and society, in the context of the Higgs Domino game and gambling on teenagers and society, in the context of the Higgs Domino game. The role of parents in supervising their children's activities, and the Z Generation's understanding of religious edicts regarding online gambling play an important role in shaping the behaviour and morals of teenagers. On the other hand, the Higgs Domino Island game also creates social dynamics and legal norms that need to be understood in the context of an increasingly digitally connected society. This research provides valuable insight into the social and moral impact of online gaming and online gambling in contemporary society. Apart from that, research was conducted by (Umam & Muhid, 2020). Trying to understand the negative side of online gaming from an Islamic perspective and Islamic psychology, they highlight how online gambling can conflict with Islamic values such as fairness and honesty. In addition, this research also illustrates how online gambling can have negative psychological impacts on the individuals involved, including addiction and stress problems.

The practice of online gambling is considered an act that violates the principles of *Muamalah Fiqh* or *Sharia* law of human relations, and this has a significant impact on Muslim society (Ferly, 2023). One of the main principles in *Muamalah Fiqh* is the principle of justice in every economic transaction. This principle emphasizes that all parties involved in the transaction must be guaranteed to be fair and not disadvantaged. In online gambling, the concept of fairness is often violated by losing players, in this game they can experience large financial losses while the gambling provider tends to make large profits. Apart from that, online slot gambling can also damage the principle of transparency in economic transactions. In *Muamalah Fiqh*, transparency is something that is highly valued because it ensures that all the information needed in a transaction is available and not hidden. However, in online gambling, the chances of winning or losing are often not transparent, and players may not have a sufficient understanding of the game mechanics. This can influence financial decisions (Ferly, 2023).

An increasingly disturbing phenomenon is online gambling among teenagers. In this digital era, teenagers are one of the groups most vulnerable to the temptation of gambling. One of the factors that triggers this phenomenon is ease of access. With advances in technology and easy access to the internet, teenagers have direct access to various online gambling websites. They can easily download gambling applications or access gambling websites via their mobile devices, in some cases online gambling can even be played via social media which makes it more difficult to supervise by parents or authorized authorities (Lubis, Pane, & Irwansyah, 2023). Apart from ease of access, another factor that influences the rise of online gambling among teenagers is the attraction and sensation it offers. Many online gambling games are designed with attractive graphics and tempting features, such as big prizes and bonuses. Teenagers are often tempted by these promises hoping to win money quickly or experience the thrill of gambling. For many teenagers, online gambling can be a fun pastime (Reza, personal communication, September 18, 2023).”

Teens' inability to fully understand the risks involved is another factor to be aware of, most teens may lack experience in managing their finances and understanding the concept of financial risk. They feel that online gambling is a quick way to make money, without considering the possibility of huge losses that they could experience. This is one aspect that makes online gambling very potentially damaging for them, in this case, online gambling can affect social norms

and values that exist in society such as work values, responsibility and mental health. Online gambling can also be seen as a form of behaviour that violates moral principles, the sanctions prepared for violators can be in the form of moral sanctions such as social stigma and exclusion from society (Lubis, Pane, and Irwansyah, 2023).

Online gambling needs to be considered from the perspective of social theory and government ethics, to reduce the risks and negative impacts that may occur. Online gambling has experienced rapid growth in recent years (Muhammad, 2023). Online gambling gameplay is one of the main drivers behind this growth. The huge profits that can be earned from online gambling businesses have encouraged gambling companies to invest in developing innovative and interesting gambling games. The result is that there are a variety of online gambling game options available, which appeal to various age groups including the Z Generation. Z Generation grew up in an era of rampant social media and the internet. They spend a lot of time online connecting with their friends and actively consuming digital content (Maudisha, 2022).

Social media such as YouTube, Instagram and TikTok have also become popular platforms for sharing experiences of playing online slot games. Players often share videos of their big wins or review various games which can influence their peers' views and interest in the game. Social is an important aspect of the Z Generation's life. They often feel pressure from their peers to participate in various activities. Peers can influence someone to try gambling, especially if they feel pressure to "follow along" or are afraid of being different. This creates additional challenges for Z Generation, as they must manage social pressure and make informed decisions regarding gaming (Reza, personal communication, September 15, 2023).

Awareness of the risks of gambling is an important thing to consider. Although many members of the Z Generation play online slot games, not all of them play without understanding the risks involved. Some of them may play for the sole purpose of seeking entertainment, while others may be looking for a chance to win big prizes. In both cases, a better understanding of the risks and temptations can influence the way they play and manage their finances when gambling. Online gambling can also carry serious risks in the form of addiction (Arsyan et al., 2022). Some members of the Z Generation may be susceptible to gambling addiction, which can hurt their mental health. It is therefore important to understand the extent to which playing online slot games can be a challenge for the psychological well-being of the Z Generation and how prevention and intervention efforts can be carried out. The difference between the current research and previous similar research is that previous research focused on how gambling games can affect divorce rates (Situmeang, 2023). Current research focuses on the Z Generation to face the temptations and risks of online gambling games. Apart from that, the research location is also different, namely in a community that operates on social media. The research was conducted by (Harahap, 2021). Who studied the Higgs Domino Islam game from legal sociology perspective, while the current research is included in a media sociology perspective and technology.

METHODS

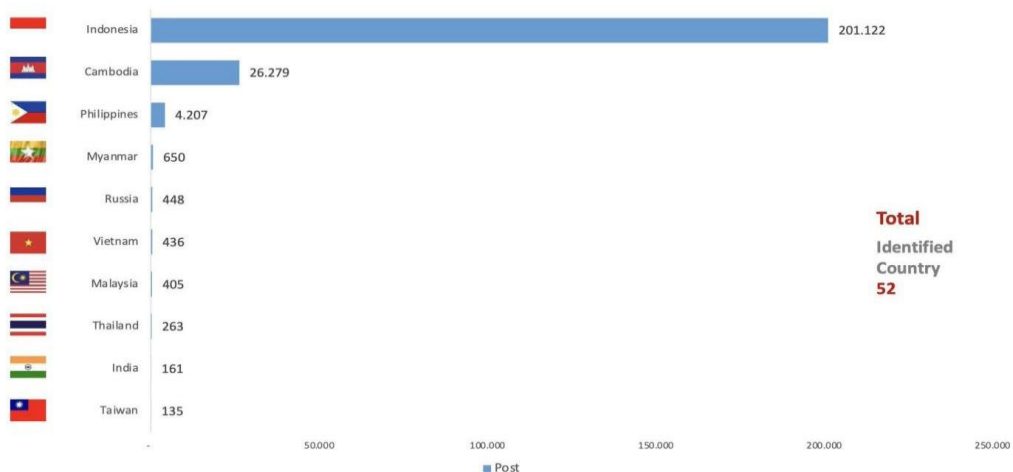
This research uses an ethnographic method. Creswell (2012, p. 473) says ethnography is an approach in qualitative research by analyzing social groups and cultures. Ethnography also interprets patterns in behaviour based on beliefs that develop in society. The initial step in collecting data used interview techniques with students at the University of Jember as informants. Their names are used pseudonyms in considering the informant's request and to protect the identity of respondents. They are Sidel, Sasa, Sinta, Riki, Raka, Reza, and Rezi. The eight informants in this research described narratives and their experiences related to online games. This research also refers to a thorough review of relevant literature sources, such as scientific journals, books, online articles, and research reports related to online gambling, the behaviour of the Z generation, and the effects of social media. The literature review helps in understanding the larger landscape, relates to the research topic and provides a strong framework for subsequent analysis.

Then, the analysis stage in a community involves collecting additional data from respondents and also includes social media platforms, online gambling forums, and websites related to online gambling games. This is done by monitoring conversations, comments and reviews shared by Z Generation members regarding their experiences playing online gambling games. This analysis includes extracting information about the temptations and risks that affect them, such as the effects of social media, peer pressure, and awareness of the risks of gambling. The data collected from these two stages was then analyzed using qualitative analysis methods which prioritize the characteristics of data exploration (Rosa, 2017). The data is grouped and analysed to identify patterns, trends and main findings related to the temptations

and risks of playing online gambling games for Generation Z. The results of this analysis are used as a basis for describing the temptations and risks faced by this generation in the context of playing online gambling games. Using this approach, this research seeks to provide a better understanding of the complexity of the interactions between online gambling, social media, and the social dynamics of young people.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

NEGARA PEMAIN JUDI SLOT DAN GACOR



Picture 1: Empirical Drone Data
 fajar.co.id [source]

The results of research through analysis techniques and interviews conducted show massive promotion of gambling content among artists and other social media. Indonesia managed to rank first in the slot and gacor game gambling player countries with 201,122 players, beating Russia with 26,279 players. This survey can be seen in Drone Emprit data, which is a social media monitoring and analysis system. Indonesia's position beats Cambodia, the Philippines and Russia. As well as the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (PPATK) also noted that the circulation of money in online gambling transactions continues to increase significantly. In 2022, the transaction figure could reach IDR 81 trillion for both online and conservative gambling. From July 2018 to August 7, Kominfo cut off access to 886,719 pieces of content containing online gambling. However, this does not deter the creators of this game website, there is a community operating on social media which makes it easier for them to promote new websites to online slot game users. According to information in an online gambling game community, many Indonesian citizens work abroad as gambling admins with high salaries. These salaries reach 30 million (Riki, personal communication, September 15, 2023).

There are several interview results from AG, AE, and GA communities (all are pseudonyms). The initial temptation to play slots was the influence of friends, initially the informant just watched and was tempted by the results obtained by his friend. They also realize that this game is also gambling (Sisil, personal communication, September 15, 2023). In an online gambling game, there are game updates every month, this is done when a game site is known by the government and is blocked, they will create a new gambling game. This game can be played in groups and also individually (Sisil, personal communication, September 15, 2023). The risk experienced is an economic crisis, due to addiction after winning and then continuing to spend their money which puts players in debt so they have to involve their parents to pay it off. Apart from that, mental pressure was also experienced due to being in debt of millions of rupiah (Rezi, personal communication, September 15, 2023).

Behind the risks experienced, the income obtained when winning is also not small, one win is equivalent to one motorbike unit. Online gambling games, which are based on curiosity, continue today. The victory you experience makes it difficult to leave the game. You also often get promotional messages for online gambling games, offering winning promotions to players. The online slot game server itself comes from abroad so it cannot be stopped by the Indonesian government. Within a month the informant was able to create more than 10 accounts so as not to spend his money when

the trial period expired. The income earned reached 5 million/month (Riko, personal communication, September 22, 2023). Some of the users who are members of the community include women, women are not supposed to play this online gambling game, this will disturb the view of women's values if their friends around them find out about it (sasa, personal communication, September 25, 2023). However, gambling game players also admit that they have become victims of addiction to these online gambling games because the need and the frequent wins they experience make it difficult for them to leave playing online gambling games.

Players do this and they also know that this game is illegal, and they still find it difficult to overcome their addiction. The loss you get when playing is when you lose, this is because the player collaborates with their theme and then has to share the money. The profits that players get at the start of playing start from the smallest IDR 14,000 to the largest amounting to IDR 10,000,000 (Raka, personal communication, September 22, 2023). Female game players themselves admit that they have never experienced defeat until now (Shinta, personal communication, September 27, 2023).

Online Slot Games

A game that is played via cell phone, laptop or PC using an internet connection. This game is a type of gambling where players do not need to use a deposit. It is different from gambling played via the web. Gambling played via the website requires players to use a deposit, while gambling games are provided free of charge during the trial period. Disbursement of winnings is made to the admin within a period of 3-5 working days. Disbursement is made when the player gets a prize from the slot game, then exchanged to the community admin or gambling game link distributor. In each community, there is a different benchmark price for each diamond. In the AG community, the price for 1 diamond is set at 60,000 Rupiah, while in the AE community, it is set at 75,000 Rupiah. while in a single win, players can get up to 50 brilliance (Riko, personal communication, September 22, 2023).

There are also various forms of playing, including spinning by spinning a spin, and then within a few seconds, the results will appear. In slot games, every month there is an updated game link to access each month. This is done when other links are known and blocked by the government. In gambling games there are several terms, namely GACOR which means (Easy to Leak), this is because it is easy for the government to know the links to online gambling games distributed by dealers. This game has the most servers overseas so currently the government cannot stop the site within the country (Rezi, personal communication, September 15, 2023).



Picture 2: Online Gambling Games
<https://pafimalut.org> [source]

Temptations of Online Slot Games

Online slot games have become a phenomenon that has dominated the online entertainment industry in recent years. To understand the impact of this game on the Z Generation, we need to identify the causes of its popularity. The causes experienced by most players are the influence of peers and the lure of millions of Rupiah from the results of playing this instrument which they don't need to spend at the start when they win. There is a promotion related to guaranteed winning

which promises to make them feel challenged and curious, so they try to play the online slot game, apart from that there is also an offer offered by the admin. If they win in one game, they will get a free Brilliant that they can use to play in the next game. One of the causes from a social perspective that makes playing online slot games is the development of technology and increasingly easier accessibility. Z Generation grew up in an era of highly sophisticated and well-connected technology (Shinta, personal communication, September 27, 2023).



Picture 3: Online Gambling Winning Page 1
Personal documentation [source]



Picture 4: Online Gambling Winning Page 1
Personal documentation [source]

The ability to access these games via mobile devices and fast internet connections has made them more accessible than traditional gambling in brick-and-mortar casinos. By simply swiping their phone screen, they can enter the world of online gambling without having to leave the house. This effect of technology and accessibility has made playing online slot games a very accessible form of entertainment for the Z Generation, who are active users of technology. Social media also plays a big role in popularizing online slot games among the Z Generation. This generation is very connected to social media platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok, where they are exposed to various content related to online gambling. Live streaming videos or reviews of online gameplay, often posted by social media users, can influence Z Generation's perception and interest in these games. Most of them see their peers playing and share their experiences via social media, which can spark curiosity and interest in trying their luck in the game (Riko, personal communication, September 22, 2023). In this case, social media has become an important tool in the spread and popularity of online slot games among the Z Generation.

Z Generation often feels pressure from their peers to engage in various activities, including playing online slot games. Their social groups often have certain norms and trends that influence their decisions. When their peers play or refer them to play, this can make them feel the need to try the game, even if they don't initially have a strong interest in gambling. Peer pressure can be one of the strong causes of temptation that influences the Z Generation's behaviour regarding playing online slot games. In some cases, this can lead to them playing even though they are aware of the risks and consequences associated with gambling. Z Generation, as explained in the previous discussion, faces various temptations and risks related to playing online slot games. However, amidst these challenges, there are also many tempting opportunities that the Z Generation can take advantage of if they take a wise approach to playing online slot games.

Playing online slot games often involves making decisions based on risk analysis and money management. Z Generation who plays these games can learn these skills with consistent practice. For example, they must learn how to manage their gambling budget, measure the risks they take, and manage their funds wisely. These skills are not only useful in the context of gambling but also in everyday life, including personal financial management and better decision-making in various situations. Although playing online slot games carries the risk of losing money, there is also the potential to win big prizes. Z Generation who plays wisely and plays with the right strategy can achieve significant financial benefits. This potential profit can be considered a strong incentive for them to play online slot games. However, it is important

to remember that gambling should always be approached wisely and should not be considered as a primary source of income. Many games provide the option to play in groups or communities, where players can interact with others who share the same interests (Reza, personal communication, September 15, 2023).

In this case, it certainly helps create opportunities to build social relationships, exchange experiences, and even learn from other players. Online gambling communities often have discussion forums and social platforms that allow players to share views and strategies. For Z Generation who often spend time in the digital world, this can be a way to establish social connectivity in an environment they understand well (Reza, personal communication, September 15, 2023). Z Generation has the potential to take advantage of the tempting opportunities available in online slot games. They can develop useful skills in risk and financial management, exploit potential financial gains, and build social connections within the online gambling community. However, it is important to always play wisely, recognize the risks involved, and not fall into unhealthy gambling behaviour. Awareness of the temptations and risks of playing online slot games is the first step towards a positive and responsible gambling experience for the Z Generation. Causes such as technological developments, the influence of social media, and peer pressure are significant elements in influencing Z Generation's interest and participation in online slot games.

Risks Faced by Generation Z

Z Generation faces many complex risks when involved in playing online slot games. First, the challenge of risk awareness is one of the main necessary factors to overcome (Azhar, 2023). Although most of them understand the potential losses in gambling, the temptation to try their luck is often very strong. This condition describes the inequality between knowledge and possible actions. Z Generation needs to be given more effective education about the risks of online gambling, including how to recognize the signs of addiction and how to play responsibly. The risks of dependency and mental health disorders are serious problems that need attention. Although online gambling can be a fun pastime, there is a significant risk of addiction, especially when players are young and prone to impulsivity.

Dependence on online gambling can negatively impact other aspects of life, such as education, work, and social relationships. Additionally, this can lead to mental health disorders such as anxiety and depression. Z Generation needs to be provided with adequate resources and support to address these potential risks and avoid becoming trapped in the destructive gambling cycle (Riki, personal communication, September 15, 2023). Additionally, it is important to note that, online gambling can create social and economic inequality among Z Generation. In some cases, active players, in these games spend excessive money to buy virtual chips or to participate in tournaments (Riko, personal communication, September 22, 2023).

This can lead to inequality in their spending, especially if some players cannot afford to spend large amounts of money on the game. These challenges underscore the need for tighter regulation and oversight in the online gambling industry to protect young players and prevent the economic inequalities that can arise. In facing all these risks, a holistic and collaborative approach from families, schools and government is essential. Better education about the risks of online gambling available psychological support, and stricter regulations in the gambling industry can help Z Generation overcome these risks. In addition, the role of parents in supervising their children's activities and providing an understanding of the consequences of online gambling is very important. With joint efforts, we can help Z Generation meet the challenges they face and ensure that they can play safely and responsibly in the growing era of online gambling.

Survival Strategy for Gamer Identity

George Hormans' theory of social exchange also discusses "social behaviour as a real or non-real exchange in an activity, an exchange of gifts or costs between at least two people." (Anggraeini, 2018). The generation that lives in a time that is easier with advances in technology and media, in this case, it is very difficult for Z Generation to escape from the media, causing prolonged dependence. In this slot game, players are also aware of the dangers that threaten them in terms of economics, mental health and the law, but in an interview that was conducted, gamers still have a fear of having to deal with the law, but their fear is not greater than the lure of money. promised by the admins of the three communities that host them. The informant said that if this happened they would take the money abroad because they believed that the government would not be able to arrest him abroad (Rezi, personal communication, September 15, 2023).

This paragraph delves into the application of phenomenological theory, as elucidated by Alfferd Schutz, in understanding conscious human behaviour. Phenomenology, as explained, scrutinizes issues stemming from individuals' sensory

experiences, wherein every action is executed consciously, and interactions are engaged with awareness (Anggraeini, 2018). To navigate these phenomena, individuals often resort to the creation of new accounts devoid of real identifiers. When their accounts face blockages, or in cases of online gambling, are termed as "leaked," they promptly fabricate fresh accounts and email addresses, perpetuating this cycle incessantly (Riki, personal communication, September 15, 2023). Such measures are taken to shield their identities, enabling them to outmanoeuvre governmental oversight. Despite potential risks, they maintain steadfast faith in the efficacy of this method for eluding government scrutiny. To date, they claim no players have been apprehended, with governmental focus primarily directed at administrators or dealers, sparing players from severe repercussions beyond mere access denial.

CONCLUSION

Playing online games presents various temptations and risks for Generation Z, heavily influenced by technological advancements and social media. These temptations include the allure of financial gain, potential profits, and peer pressure. However, it's crucial to acknowledge the significant risks associated with addiction, peer influence, indebtedness, and legal repercussions. These risks can potentially impact the mental health and character formation of Generation Z. To address these challenges, collaboration among government entities, gambling companies, and educators is essential. This collaboration should focus on educating young people about the dangers of gambling, promoting responsible gaming practices, and integrating positive aspects of gaming into educational initiatives for the younger generation.

The research conducted involved direct observation and interaction with members of the online gambling community. However, several obstacles were encountered, such as informants' reluctance to participate fully due to fears of identity exposure. To overcome such barriers, prevention efforts should involve proactive measures by gambling companies, including the identification of addiction issues, the development of self-control tools, and transparency regarding both opportunities and risks associated with online gambling.

Parents are urged to play an active role in addressing these challenges by engaging in open conversations with their children about gambling and providing guidance. This proactive approach aims to empower Generation Z to navigate the temptations and risks of online gaming responsibly and wisely.

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