

## **The Impact of Online Slot Addiction on Social Behavior (Case of a teenager in Mataram City)**

**I Gde Khanara Arya Wijaya, Mohamad Mustari,  
Bagdawansyah Alqadri, Lalu Sumardi**

Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Mataram University

\*Corresponding Author e-mail: [gedekhanara09@gmail.com](mailto:gedekhanara09@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** This study aims to analyze the impact of online slot addiction on the social behavior of adolescents in Mataram City. The research method used is a case study with a qualitative approach, involving in-depth interviews with adolescents addicted to online slots. The results indicate that online slot addiction negatively affects various aspects of adolescents' lives, including financial, social, and academic domains. Financially, adolescents tend to spend their pocket money uncontrollably and even borrow money from friends or family. Socially, this addiction isolates them from their social environment and reduces their involvement in community activities. Additionally, in the academic aspect, online slot addiction leads to declining academic performance due to a lack of focus and frequent absenteeism from school activities. The conclusion of this study confirms that online slot addiction is a detrimental phenomenon for adolescents' social development and requires attention from various parties, including families, schools, and the government. More intensive preventive and educational measures are necessary to mitigate the negative impact of this addiction and raise awareness among adolescents about the dangers of online gambling.

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## **Introduction**

The advancement of digital technology has significantly changed various aspects of life, including the realm of online gambling. One form of gambling that has become increasingly prevalent is online slots. This phenomenon does not only attract adults but also extends to adolescents, who now have easy access to these games through digital devices. Online slots, which offer luck-based gameplay with reel-spinning mechanics, have become particularly appealing to adolescents due to their instant nature and the promise of quick winnings. However, behind the excitement of these games, there is an underlying risk of addiction that can negatively impact various aspects of life, particularly adolescents' social behavior.

Statistics on online slot cases in Indonesia in 2022 and 2023 show a concerning trend. According to data from the Indonesian National Police and reports from various independent

research institutions, the number of reported cases has increased significantly each year. In 2022, more than 10,000 cases related to online slot activities were recorded, while in 2023, this number nearly doubled. This increase is not limited to the number of individuals involved but also includes the amount of money wagered and generated from these illegal activities. In 2023, online slot transaction values were estimated to reach billions of rupiah per month.

In Mataram City, the rise in online slot addiction cases among adolescents has become a serious concern. Adolescents trapped in this activity experience changes in social interaction patterns, academic motivation, and financial stability. They tend to spend excessive time playing, reducing interaction with family and peers, and facing financial difficulties due to gambling habits. Many even resort to borrowing money or selling personal belongings to continue playing. Additionally, online slot addiction negatively affects academic performance, as many adolescents experience declining grades and increased absenteeism from school.

This study aims to analyze the impact of online slot addiction on adolescents' social behavior in Mataram City. Using a qualitative approach and a case study method, this research seeks to uncover various aspects of social behavior changes resulting from this addiction. The findings of this study are expected to provide deeper insights into the negative impact of online slots and serve as a foundation for prevention and mitigation efforts by various stakeholders, including families, schools, and the government.

## **Research Method**

The flow of research should be presented in this section complete with captions. Image captions placed as part of the image title (figure caption) are not part of the picture. The methods used in completing the study are written in this section. Basically, this section describes the way the research was done. The main materials must be written here: (1) research design; (2) population and samples; (3) sample collection techniques and instrumental development; and (4) data analysis techniques. The specification and type of tools and materials must be written in case the researches have been conducted by using them. The qualitative research, such as classroom action research, case studies, and so forth, need to mention the researcher attendance, research subject, and participated informants, as well as the methods used to explore the data, research location, research duration, and the description of research results validation.

It is suggested that the authors avoid organizing the article content into the smaller parts than second subheading in this section. However, in case of unavoidable factors, the writing style must follow the “Results and Discussion” section.

## **Result and Discussion**

The study found that online slot addiction among adolescents causes significant disturbances in three main areas: financial, social, and academic.

Financially, adolescents addicted to online slots often misuse their allowances, borrow money, or even sell personal belongings to finance their gambling habits. This financial instability burdens not only the adolescents themselves but also their families. According to Ginting (2023), many adolescents involved in online gambling experience mounting debts that disrupt

family harmony and contribute to conflict within the household. This financial desperation may push adolescents toward engaging in other risky behaviors, such as theft or fraud, to sustain their gambling activities.

Socially, adolescents addicted to online slots tend to withdraw from their peer groups and family activities. Fadila (2022) observed that excessive involvement in online games leads to reduced participation in social activities, decreased empathy, and difficulty maintaining healthy relationships. Addiction isolates adolescents from their social environments, thereby increasing the risk of emotional disturbances such as loneliness, anxiety, and depression. Sitanggang (2023) also emphasizes that the weakening of social values is a significant consequence of online gambling, affecting adolescents' sense of community and social responsibility.

Psychologically, adolescents suffering from online slot addiction often experience increased stress, emotional instability, and a higher risk of depressive symptoms. Suryani (2018) highlights that persistent exposure to addictive digital content negatively affects adolescents' emotional regulation, making them more prone to feelings of hopelessness and low self-esteem. These psychological impacts, if left untreated, can escalate into more severe mental health disorders requiring professional intervention.

Academically, adolescents suffering from online slot addiction showed declining motivation, poor academic performance, and frequent absenteeism. They prioritize gambling activities over school responsibilities, leading to lower grades and higher dropout risks. Rahman (2021) found that adolescents addicted to online games are less likely to complete their assignments on time, attend classes regularly, or perform well academically. This academic neglect jeopardizes their future opportunities and overall life prospects.

Manipulative behaviors were also evident among addicted adolescents. They frequently lie to parents or friends to obtain money for gambling. According to Kholifah (2024), adolescents often develop rationalizations to justify their addiction, such as claiming gambling is a temporary hobby or underestimating its negative impacts. This manipulative pattern not only erodes trust within the family but also normalizes deceitful behavior, potentially leading to broader ethical deterioration.

The role of the family environment is critical in either mitigating or exacerbating online slot addiction. Adolescents from families with low supervision, high conflict levels, or permissive parenting styles are more vulnerable to developing gambling addictions. Ferly (2023) underscores that family supervision and open communication are key protective factors against risky behaviors like gambling. Conversely, lack of parental involvement often leaves adolescents unmonitored and more susceptible to negative peer influences.

Peer influence plays a significant role in adolescents' gambling behaviors. Daniah (2024) found that adolescents who associate with peers engaged in online gambling are more likely to participate themselves. Peer groups often serve as both the initiators and reinforcers of gambling behaviors, creating a cycle of addiction that is difficult to break without external intervention.

Preventive efforts must involve multiple stakeholders, including families, schools, and community organizations. Educational programs targeting adolescents should emphasize the dangers of online gambling and promote healthy digital habits. Schools can implement early detection programs, provide counseling services, and create supportive environments to help students struggling with gambling behaviors. Mustari (2012) recommends integrating preventive education into formal curriculums to strengthen students' resilience against addictive behaviors.

In addition, community-based rehabilitation programs designed specifically for adolescents may offer effective intervention models. Collaboration between educational institutions, mental health professionals, and local authorities can provide holistic support systems that address not only the addiction itself but also the underlying social, emotional, and familial factors contributing to it.

These findings align with broader concerns raised by researchers about the societal impacts of online slot gambling. The multidimensional consequences—financial, social, psychological, and academic—highlight the urgent need for comprehensive strategies that go beyond punitive measures to focus on education, rehabilitation, and the strengthening of adolescent support networks

## Conclusion

This study indicates that online slot addiction negatively impacts various aspects of adolescents' lives in Mataram City. The most dominant effects include financial, social, and academic aspects, leading to behavioral changes such as social isolation, loss of academic motivation, increased debt, and economic dependence. Adolescents addicted to online slots tend to neglect their responsibilities and spend more time in the virtual world rather than interacting with their social environment. Therefore, preventive efforts involving various parties, including families, schools, and the government, are necessary. Education on the dangers of online gambling and increased supervision of adolescent activities can help mitigate the negative effects of this addiction. With appropriate measures in place, it is hoped that adolescents can return to a healthier social and academic life.

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