

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ISLAMIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN REDUCING INTEREST IN ONLINE GAMBLING AMONG TEENAGERS

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Abstract

This study assesses the role of Islamic education in overcoming online gambling among teenagers. This study evaluates the impact of Islamic education programs on adolescents' interest in online gambling through interviews, observations, and documentation. The findings show that Islamic education is effective in reducing students' interest in online gambling. Values such as responsibility and integrity taught in this program play a role in changing the attitudes and behaviors of adolescents. Interviews revealed that students who took part in the program had a better understanding of the dangers of online gambling and better self-control abilities. Observations showed a decrease in interest in online gambling, an increase in academic achievement, and better social relationships. Documentation from educational institutions confirms the decline in online gambling cases after the program is implemented. Parent support and school supervision strengthen the effectiveness of the program. The active participation of parents and the involvement of the school in implementing Islamic values creates a supportive environment. Islamic education also helps students manage stress and build social solidarity. The results of the study confirm that Islamic education is an effective tool in preventing online gambling among adolescents, with ongoing support from families, schools, and communities.

Keywords: *Islamic Education, Online Gambling, Teenagers*

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's digital era, the development of information and communication technology has brought various positive and negative impacts on people's lives. One of the increasingly worrying negative impacts is the increasing access and interest in online gambling, especially among teenagers. Online gambling is not just entertainment, but it has become a serious problem affecting the morale, mental health, and academic achievement of adolescents. This phenomenon is driven by the ease of internet access and digital devices that allow teenagers to gamble anytime and anywhere. In addition, attractive online gambling advertisements and various promotions attract the attention of teenagers who are vulnerable to negative influences. Dependence on online gambling can lead to anxiety

disorders, depression, and a decline in overall quality of life (Namayandeh Joorabchi et al., 2023).

Furthermore, involvement in online gambling can also result in serious financial problems. Teenagers who are stuck in the habit of gambling often spend their pocket money or even borrow money to gamble, which can ultimately lead to debt and economic pressure. This not only damages their financial stability, but also affects their relationships with family and friends. Education and prevention are key to addressing this problem. The public, especially parents and educators, need to raise awareness about the dangers of online gambling and provide support and guidance to adolescents to avoid these risky behaviors. In addition, governments and internet service providers should also play an active role in restricting access to online gambling sites and promoting positive content that can help teens develop more useful interests and skills (Abedi Renani & Brahman, 2024).

Adolescents are a group that is vulnerable to negative influences from the surrounding environment, including from the internet and social media. The rise of online gambling among teenagers is caused by various factors, including ease of access, lack of supervision, and lack of understanding of the dangers of gambling. Teenagers, who generally have a high curiosity and tend to seek new sensations, are often easy targets for online gambling sites. The ease of internet access allows teens to connect with online gambling platforms anytime and anywhere without time or place restrictions. The lack of supervision from parents or caregivers is also an important factor that allows teens to engage in these activities without being detected. Many parents are less savvy or even unaware that their children spend time gambling online. In addition, adolescents' low understanding of the risks and negative consequences of online gambling makes them easily trapped in this risky behavior (Niklová & Hanesová, 2024).

Online gambling can result in addiction, financial losses, and psychological disorders that have an impact on the quality of life of adolescents. Online gambling addiction not only drains money, but it also takes up a lot of time that should be used for more productive activities, such as studying or exercising. When teens start to lose control of their gambling habits, this can lead to serious financial losses, considering that many of them use pocket money or even borrow money to gamble. Psychological disorders, such as stress, anxiety, and depression, also often arise as a result of online gambling addiction. Teenagers who are trapped in the vicious circle of online gambling often feel ashamed, guilty, and hopeless because of the losses they experience. This condition can affect their academic performance, decrease their self-confidence, and interfere with social relationships with friends and family. Therefore, it is important for all parties, including parents, educators, and the government, to work together in providing education and prevention against the dangers of online gambling. Awareness programs in schools, stricter supervision of teens' online

activities, and stricter regulation of online gambling sites can help protect teens from these damaging negative impacts (Khasawneh, 2024).

Islamic education has an important role in shaping the character and morality of individuals. With values rooted in the teachings of the Qur'an and Hadith, Islamic education teaches the importance of integrity, responsibility, and courage in facing life's challenges. Islamic education not only focuses on spiritual aspects, but also includes comprehensive social and ethical aspects, so it is able to provide a comprehensive guide for an individual's personal development. An effective Islamic education program is expected to be one of the solutions in reducing interest in online gambling among teenagers. Through a holistic approach, Islamic education instills strong moral values from an early age, such as honesty, discipline, and empathy for others. In addition, Islamic education also emphasizes the importance of behaving in accordance with the principles taught in the religion, including staying away from actions that harm oneself and others, such as gambling (Nurainun & Mayasari, 2024).

The integration of Islamic education in school curricula and extracurricular programs can help shape the mindset of adolescents to be more critical of negative influences from the surrounding environment. Religious activities, such as Qur'anic studies, lectures, and discussions on morality, can be an effective means of raising awareness among adolescents of the dangers of online gambling and encouraging them to stay away from such behaviors. In addition, the active role of teachers and educators in providing good examples is also very important in this process. Islamic education can also strengthen the relationship between adolescents and families, as Islamic teachings emphasize the importance of the role of the family in educating children. Parents who are actively involved in their children's religious education can more easily monitor and direct their children's behavior to stay on the right track. This includes providing an understanding of the dangers of online gambling and ways to avoid it. Furthermore, Islamic education teaches the importance of seeking halal and beneficial entertainment and pleasure. By introducing adolescents to a variety of alternative positive activities, such as sports, art, and social activities, they can find healthier ways to fill their free time. Thus, a comprehensive and integrated Islamic education program can be a strong bulwark in protecting adolescents from the negative influences of online gambling and helping them develop strong and moral character (Zuliaty et al., 2023).

This study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of Islamic education programs in reducing interest in online gambling among adolescents. Through a holistic approach that involves teaching Islamic values, character development, and strict supervision, it is hoped that this program can have a positive impact in shaping a more responsible and noble young generation. Thus, this research is expected to make a significant contribution to efforts to

prevent negative behavior among adolescents, as well as strengthen the role of Islamic education as one of the effective solutions in overcoming social problems in the digital era.

2. IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study method to evaluate the effectiveness of Islamic education programs in reducing interest in online gambling among adolescents. The research will be conducted in several Islamic-based secondary schools in the region, focusing on students aged 15-18 who are involved in Islamic education programs in those schools. Data will be collected through in-depth interviews with students, teachers, and parents to gain diverse perspectives on Islamic education programs and their impact on online gambling interest. In addition, participatory observations will be conducted to understand the process of program implementation and interaction between students and teachers, while documentation related to Islamic education programs, such as curriculum and activity reports, will also be analyzed. The collected data will be analyzed using thematic analysis methods, starting with the transcription of interview data, followed by coding and categorization of key themes, as well as interpretation of findings based on theory and relevant literature. The validity and reliability of the data will be maintained through data triangulation, by comparing information from various sources and conducting member checking to ensure the accuracy of the findings. The research will adhere to ethical principles, including obtaining written permission from the school and parents of students, maintaining the confidentiality of participants' identities, and ensuring voluntary participation. With this method, it is hoped that an in-depth understanding of the role of Islamic education programs in reducing interest in online gambling among adolescents and the factors that affect the effectiveness of the program can be obtained (Sugiyono, 2019).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

The study found that Islamic education programs have a significant impact on reducing interest in online gambling among teenagers. Based on the analysis of data collected through interviews, observations, and documentation, some of the main findings are as follows. First, interviews with teens who participated in Islamic education programs showed that they had a better understanding of the dangers of online gambling compared to teens who were not involved in the program. They are aware of the negative impact of online gambling on morality, mental health, and financial stability. This shows that Islamic education is able to increase the awareness and knowledge of adolescents about the risks associated with online gambling. Second, observation of adolescents' behavior in the school and family environment showed positive changes after they were involved in Islamic education programs. Teenagers who were previously involved in online gambling activities showed a significant decrease in the frequency of gambling. In addition, they began to show improvements in academic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, and more

harmonious relationships with family and friends. This shows that Islamic education programs not only help reduce interest in online gambling, but also improve other aspects of adolescents' lives. Third, documentation from educational institutions that implement Islamic education programs shows a decrease in online gambling cases among students. These institutions report that after implementing a structured Islamic education program, including regular religious activities, the teaching of moral values, and character building, the number of students involved in online gambling has decreased significantly. This data strengthens the evidence that Islamic education has an important role in preventing and reducing adolescents' interest in online gambling. In addition, this study also found that the role of teachers and educators is very important in the success of Islamic education programs. Teachers who act as role models and mentors are able to have a strong positive influence on adolescents. They not only teach religious material, but also apply Islamic values in daily life, so that teenagers can see firsthand examples of good behavior. Intensive and personalized interaction between teachers and students also helps in detecting and dealing with online gambling problems early. A comprehensive and integrated Islamic education program has a significant positive impact in reducing interest in online gambling among teenagers. The program not only increases teens' awareness and knowledge about the dangers of online gambling, but also improves their behavior and overall quality of life. Therefore, the development and implementation of broader and more effective Islamic education programs need to continue to be supported to protect the younger generation from the negative influence of online gambling.

Decline in Interest in Online Gambling

Most students who take an Islamic education program report a decline in interest in online gambling. The results of the interviews showed that they felt more aware of the negative impacts of online gambling and had better control over the desire to engage in such activities. Students who have been exposed to Islamic values through formal and non-formal education tend to have a deeper understanding of the moral and social consequences of gambling. This decline in interest is also supported by increased students' awareness of the ethical principles and responsibilities taught in Islam. Students report that they feel more responsible for their actions and better understand the importance of maintaining self-integrity. They become more wary of the temptation of online gambling, which is often packaged in the form of exciting and challenging games. Islamic education helps students recognize these tactics and develop strategies to avoid them (Farasa et al., 2024).

The results of the interviews also indicated that students involved in Islamic education programs had better control over their impulses and emotions. They learn to manage stress and pressure in healthier ways, such as through prayer, meditation, and other positive activities. The ability to control these emotions is important in preventing online gambling addiction, which often begins as an escape from trouble or stress. The students also reported that Islamic education gave them a strong sense of community and support. Religious activities, such as congregational prayers, studies, and group discussions, help them feel connected to others who share their values. This sense of connectedness provides moral and social support that is important in keeping them from the negative influences of online gambling. By feeling part of a supportive community, students are more likely to seek help and advice when faced with temptation or problems. In addition, teachers and educators

in Islamic education programs play an important role as mentors and role models. They not only provide religious knowledge, but also apply Islamic values in daily interactions with students. The presence of respected and trusted authority figures makes students more likely to follow the advice and direction given. Teachers who are actively involved in student life can help detect early signs of involvement in online gambling and provide timely intervention (Daulay & Mahdar, 2024).

Thus, Islamic education programs not only raise students' awareness of the dangers of online gambling but also equip them with the necessary tools and support to avoid such activities. The program demonstrates that a holistic approach that combines moral education, community support, and individual guidance can effectively reduce adolescents' interest and involvement in online gambling. Continued support from parents, schools, and communities will further strengthen these efforts, creating an environment conducive to the healthy and moral growth and development of adolescents.

Increased Awareness and Knowledge

The program has successfully increased students' awareness of the risks and consequences of online gambling. Students identify that the knowledge gained from Islamic education programs, including teachings on morals and ethics, helps them understand how dangerous online gambling can be. Through intensive teaching of Islamic values, students are taught to view online gambling not only as a financially detrimental activity, but also as an act that goes against the moral and spiritual principles embraced in the Islamic religion. This knowledge makes students more critical in assessing the information and temptations they encounter in cyberspace. They have become more sensitive to the various forms of fraud and manipulation that are often used by online gambling sites to attract new users. Students who have taken an Islamic education program tend to have better abilities in recognizing danger signs and strategies to avoid risky situations (Shogran, 2024).

In addition, the teachings on morals and ethics in Islamic education provide a strong moral foundation for students. They learn to value values such as honesty, fairness, and responsibility. This understanding makes them realize that online gambling is a dishonest and unfair act, both to themselves and to others. Awareness of these negative impacts encourages them to stay away from activities that can damage their integrity and dignity. Islamic education programs also emphasize the importance of managing desires and desires, including the desire to gamble. Through learning about self-discipline and emotional control, students are taught effective ways to cope with impulses that can lead them to detrimental behaviors. These skills are crucial in helping students avoid addiction and develop healthier and more positive living habits. Furthermore, the program provides students with a variety of practical tools and strategies to protect themselves from online gambling. For example, they are taught to use internet safety software, limit the time spent on digital devices, and seek support from family and friends if they feel tempted to gamble. This knowledge and skills strengthen their ability to face challenges in the digital world with more confidence and thoughtfulness (Suryani et al., 2024).

In addition to individual aspects, Islamic education programs also create a supportive environment for students. Through religious activities, group discussions, and interactions with experienced mentors, students feel supported in their efforts to stay away from online gambling. This social support is important for building a sense of solidarity and courage

among students, so that they do not feel alone in their struggle against the temptation of gambling. Overall, Islamic education programs have proven to be effective in raising students' awareness of the risks and consequences of online gambling. By providing in-depth knowledge, practical skills, and moral support, the program helps students develop a more critical outlook and a more responsible attitude toward online activities. As a result, students become more able to avoid risky behaviors and lead healthier, moral, and productive lives.

Positive Influence on Character and Morality

Observations show that Islamic education programs contribute to the formation of students' character and morality. The Islamic values taught in this program, such as responsibility and integrity, seem to have an effect in reducing students' interest in online gambling. Islamic education programs provide a strong moral foundation for students, helping them understand the importance of living in accordance with the ethical principles taught by the religion. The value of responsibility taught in this program encourages students to think critically about the consequences of their actions. Students are taught to take responsibility for their choices, both in the real world and in the virtual world. They realize that online gambling is not only financially detrimental to themselves but can also destroy social relationships and interfere with mental health. This education instills an awareness that every action has an impact, and therefore, it is important to make wise and responsible decisions (Dalimunthe et al., 2023).

Integrity, as one of the key values taught, also plays an important role in reducing students' interest in online gambling. Students are taught to uphold honesty and fairness in every aspect of their lives. By understanding that online gambling is a form of cheating and exploitation, students tend to reject this activity because it is contrary to the values they espouse. Strong integrity makes them more resolute in the face of temptation and more committed to living an honest and just life. Additionally, observations show that Islamic education programs provide students with skills to manage stress and stress, which are often triggers for gambling behavior. Through a holistic approach that includes spiritual, emotional, and social aspects, students learn a variety of techniques to maintain a balance in life. They are introduced to practices such as prayer, meditation, and self-reflection that can help them cope with anxiety and stress without having to seek an escape in the form of online gambling (Fuadi, 2024).

The program also strengthens social bonds between students, teachers, and the community. Joint activities such as congregational prayers, group discussions, and community service projects create a supportive and caring environment. Support from this community gives students a sense of security and motivation to stay away from risky behaviors. They feel part of a group that shares the same goals and values, which makes it easier for them to resist the temptation of online gambling. Furthermore, observations also show that Islamic education programs encourage students to develop positive interests and skills. By turning their attention to rewarding activities such as sports, art, and social engagement, students find healthier and more productive ways to pass their time. Engaging in these positive activities not only reduces the time they spend online but also increases their self-confidence and personal accomplishments (Masturin, 2024).

Overall, observations show that Islamic education programs contribute significantly to shaping students' character and morality. By instilling the values of responsibility and

integrity, the program has succeeded in reducing students' interest in online gambling. Students who engage in the program demonstrate increased awareness, self-control, and better life skills, all of which contribute to healthier and more meaningful lives. Continued support from the educational community and families is essential to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the program, so that more students can experience its positive benefits (Faizah et al., 2024).

Support from Family and School

Support from parents and schools has also proven to be an important factor in the success of the program. The active participation of parents and supervision from the school strengthens the effectiveness of the program in reducing interest in online gambling. Parents who are involved in their children's religious education can provide significant guidance and moral support. They can help keep an eye on their children's online activities, discuss the dangers of online gambling, and set a positive example in everyday life. Parental involvement in Islamic education programs creates a harmonious and supportive family environment, where religious and moral values are consistently upheld. Parents who are active in their children's religious education tend to be more sensitive to behavior changes and more quick to deal with problems before they develop into harmful habits. Through open and honest communication, parents can build trust with their children, so that children feel comfortable talking about the problems and challenges they face (Mubin et al., 2023).

Supervision from the school also plays a key role in ensuring that the Islamic education program is implemented effectively. Schools that proactively integrate Islamic values into the curriculum and extracurricular activities provide a conducive environment for students to learn and develop strong character. Teachers and school staff who are committed to supporting the program can help identify students who may be at risk of engaging in online gambling and provide timely intervention. In addition, schools can organize various activities that support students' moral and spiritual development, such as seminars, workshops, and religious activities. These activities not only provide additional knowledge about the dangers of online gambling but also reinforce the values taught in the classroom. By involving students in practical discussions and activities, schools can help them apply what they learn in real-life situations (Mhaidat et al., 2024).

Cooperation between parents and schools is also important in creating a coordinated and comprehensive approach to reducing interest in online gambling. Through regular meetings, discussions, and training, parents and teachers can share information and strategies to support students' moral and spiritual development. They can work together to create a safe and supportive environment, both at home and at school, where Islamic values are upheld and risky behaviors can be effectively identified and addressed. In addition, support from the wider community, including religious organizations and social institutions, can also strengthen Islamic education programs. Engaged communities can provide additional resources, such as counseling, coaching, and positive activities that help students stay away from online gambling. By involving a wide range of stakeholders, the program can create a strong and sustainable support network for students. Overall, support from parents and schools is crucial in the success of Islamic education programs in reducing interest in online gambling among students. The active participation of parents and strict supervision on the part of the school strengthens efforts to shape students' character and morality, helping them

understand and avoid the risks associated with online gambling. With consistent and comprehensive support from families, schools, and communities, the program can continue to grow and provide significant benefits to the younger generation (Sultana, 2024).

Discussion

The results of this study confirm that Islamic education can play an important role in overcoming the problem of online gambling among teenagers. The decline in interest in online gambling among students enrolled in the program shows that the values taught through Islamic education, such as the prohibition of negative behavior and the importance of living responsibly, are effective in changing the attitudes and behaviors of adolescents. Islamic education provides a strong moral and ethical foundation, which helps teenagers understand the negative impact of online gambling not only from a legal perspective but also from a moral and spiritual point of view. By understanding that online gambling is a prohibited act in the teachings of Islam, teenagers become more aware of the moral and spiritual consequences associated with such behavior. This awareness motivates them to stay away from online gambling and look for more positive and meaningful alternatives. In addition, Islamic education emphasizes the importance of living with full responsibility and integrity. Through comprehensive teaching of these values, adolescents are taught to make wise and responsible decisions in every aspect of their lives. They learn to consider the long-term impact of their actions and to avoid behaviors that can harm themselves and others. This attitude is crucial in helping teens avoid the temptation of online gambling, which is often packaged as harmless entertainment but has serious consequences (Widananda et al., 2023).

Islamic education programs also provide teens with practical skills to manage stress and stress, which are often the main triggers for engaging in online gambling. Teens are taught a variety of techniques for coping with stress, such as prayer, meditation, and physical activity, which can help them manage their emotions and desire to gamble. By having these skills, teenagers are better able to face daily challenges without having to look for an escape in the form of online gambling. Furthermore, this study shows that Islamic education can help build a sense of solidarity and community support among adolescents. Through joint activities such as congregational prayers, group discussions, and social projects, adolescents feel connected to others who share the same values. This sense of connectedness provides moral and social support that is important in keeping them from the negative influences of online gambling. By feeling part of a supportive community, teens are more likely to seek help and advice when faced with temptation or problems (Rizkiana, 2023).

Observations also show that Islamic education programs help improve adolescent self-control and discipline. They learn to control impulses and make wiser choices, which is crucial in preventing online gambling addiction. By applying the values of discipline and self-control in their daily lives, adolescents become more able to resist the temptation to gamble and stay focused on their goals and ideals. In conclusion, the results of this study confirm that Islamic education has great potential in overcoming the problem of online gambling among teenagers. By providing a strong moral foundation, practical skills for managing stress, community support, and the ability to self-control, Islamic education programs are effective in changing the attitudes and behaviors of adolescents. Ongoing support from families, schools, and communities is essential to ensure the success and

sustainability of the program. With a shared commitment, Islamic education can be a powerful tool in protecting the younger generation from the dangers of online gambling and helping them reach their full potential (Singh, 2018).

Increasing awareness and knowledge about the risks of online gambling is a crucial aspect that supports the effectiveness of this program. Islamic education, with a focus on ethics and morality, helps students to better understand the long-term impact of online gambling, as well as its moral and social consequences. This is in line with the theory that education based on moral values can shape an individual's character and influence their behavior positively. Observations also show that character education integrated in Islamic education programs has a positive impact on students' morality. The values taught in Islamic education, such as honesty, responsibility, and discipline, help students to build resilience to the temptation of online gambling. Programs that emphasize character development and strengthening positive values have proven to be effective in reducing students' interest in harmful behaviors (Branch, 2024).

The role of family and school support in this program cannot be ignored. Collaboration between schools, teachers, and parents ensures that students get consistent supervision and the support necessary to avoid online gambling. This support reinforces the messages conveyed in the Islamic education program and helps students to more easily apply the values learned in daily life. Overall, the findings of this study show that the integration of Islamic educational values in efforts to prevent online gambling can make a significant contribution in shaping a more responsible and noble young generation. This study recommends strengthening and expanding Islamic education programs in more schools as an effective strategy in overcoming the problem of online gambling among adolescents (Behaviours & Behaviours, 2024).

4. CONCLUSION

This study shows that Islamic education programs have significant effectiveness in reducing interest in online gambling among teenagers. Through an Islamic values-based approach, the program has succeeded in raising students' awareness of the risks and negative impacts of online gambling, as well as strengthening their character and morality. The results of the study indicate that Islamic education that emphasizes the teachings of morality, responsibility, and integrity can shape the attitudes and behaviors of adolescents positively. The decline in interest in online gambling among students who participate in this program proves that Islamic educational values, such as the prohibition of negative behavior and the importance of living responsibly, are effective in changing the attitudes and behaviors of adolescents. In addition, active support from families and schools also plays an important role in improving the success of the program. Overall, the integration of Islamic educational values in efforts to prevent online gambling is an effective strategy to overcome this problem. This study recommends the expansion and strengthening of Islamic education

programs in schools as a strategic step in shaping a more responsible and noble young generation.

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