

The Role Of Mosques In Preventing Online Gambling In Society: (Case Study At Al-Mujaddid Mosque, Pasar Kemis, Tangerang)

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ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of online gambling is very disturbing and has a negative impact on people's lives. Among the negative impacts of online gambling are the destruction of households, financial bankruptcy, and criminal acts. One religious institution that plays an important role in preventing online gambling behavior is the mosque. The purpose of this study is to explain the role of mosques in preventing online gambling behavior in society. This research method uses qualitative research. Data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The research location was at the Al-Mujaddid Mosque in Pasar Kemis, Tangerang. Participants were 3 people, consisting of 1 mosque administrator and 2 permanent mosque ustadz. The results of the study indicate that the role of mosques in preventing online gambling behavior is: (1) Providing understanding to the congregation and the surrounding community regarding the negative impacts of online gambling behavior, (2) Holding activities to increase faith such as regular religious studies held every day after dawn, religious studies every Saturday and Sunday after dawn, and special religious studies for mothers about faith, worship, mu'amalah, and morals to improve the quality of faith and piety. This research emphasizes the crucial role of mosques as centers for community development in addressing moral challenges, particularly the highly dangerous phenomenon of online gambling. These findings provide a model for religion-based prevention that can be implemented in other mosques.

Keywords: *The Role of Mosques, Prevention, Online Gambling*

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A. INTRODUCTION

We are now entering the digital era, a phase of technological development where various human activities are integrated with digital devices, the internet, and data-based information systems. This transformation is changing the way people work, communicate, learn, and access public services. Advances such as smartphones,

social media, artificial intelligence, and digital transactions are making life faster, more practical, and without geographical boundaries. The digital era has brought significant changes to human life, with both positive and negative impacts (Diana et al., 2024). Positive impacts of the digital era include easy access to information and time efficiency, while negative impacts include the emergence of various forms of digital

social deviation, such as online gambling. In Indonesia, online gambling has reached an alarming level, primarily due to easy access via smartphones, digital payment methods, and systematic and massive promotion through social media. The negative impacts of online gambling are felt not only by individuals but also by families and the wider community. Various studies have shown that online gambling can lead to bankruptcy, mental disorders, severe stress, depression, criminal acts, and even marital discord (Suwito, 2024). This phenomenon makes online gambling a social problem that requires serious attention from all levels of society.

One religious institution that plays a crucial and strategic role in preventing online gambling is the mosque. Mosques serve not only as places of worship but also as centers for moral development and strengthening of moral values. Mosques play a strategic role in building spiritual resilience and providing exemplary values to the community. This aligns with the view that mosques are social institutions that function to disseminate good values, strengthen morals, and resolve social problems (Syukrian, 2023). Furthermore, mosques also serve as centers for da'wah and social transformation, capable of providing solutions to community problems, including digital social deviation in the form of online gambling (Rahmah, 2024).

Gambling, from an Islamic perspective, is strictly prohibited because it is considered to corrupt morals, harm oneself, and damage social relationships. The prohibition of gambling is stated in the Qur'an in Surah Al-Maidah, verses 90–91, which emphasizes that gambling is a satanic act that brings enmity and hatred (Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2019). From an Islamic perspective, gambling is forbidden because it contains elements of speculation, uncertainty, and the taking of other people's property through unjust means.

In the hadith, the Prophet Muhammad also emphasized that any form of gambling that involves betting is considered gambling, and therefore is not permitted by Sharia. Scholars explain that the core of gambling's prohibition lies in the loss of the principle of justice, the exploitation of greedy emotions, and dependence that damages reason and wealth. In modern contexts such as online gambling, this practice is increasingly dangerous because it is easily accessible, addictive, and triggers social impacts such as crime, debt, family breakdown, and mental disorders. Islam emphasizes that wealth must be obtained through halal, productive, and beneficial means, not through false luck that contains elements of *gharar* (uncertainty) and *batil*. Therefore, gambling in any form, including online gambling, is seen as destructive to the individual, family, and society, and contrary to Islamic moral and spiritual values. Therefore, efforts to prevent online gambling must be carried out through strengthening Islamic values and fostering moral values within the community to eradicate online gambling. Mosques, as centers of spiritual development, play a crucial role in conveying this moral message.

Studies on the role of mosques have been conducted (Hidayat, 2023) with the title *The role of campus mosques in strengthening religious moderation (Study of the Darul Ulum Mosque, Pamulang University)* and (Abdzar, 2024) with the title "*Revitalizing the role of mosques as a base and medium for contemporary da'wah*". However, few studies have specifically examined the role of mosques in preventing online gambling, particularly in the context of mosques at the sub-district or local community level. The novelty of this research lies in its focus on deeply examining the role of the Al-Mujaddid Mosque in Pasar Kemis, Tangerang, in building community moral awareness of the dangers of online gambling through regular and structured religious

activities. This research also provides empirical evidence on how mosques function as a spiritual bulwark in communities facing digital challenges. Thus, this research has both academic and practical significance.

B. METHOD

This study used a qualitative approach to gain a deeper understanding of the role of the Al-Mujaddid Mosque in preventing online gambling. The qualitative approach was used because the study focused on the meaning, perspectives, and understanding of the research subjects regarding social phenomena (Moleong, 2019). Data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews with one mosque administrator and two permanent ustadz (Islamic teachers). In addition to the interviews, the researchers also observed mosque activities and reviewed documents related to the mosque's community development activities and programs.

The collected data were analyzed using the Miles and Huberman model through three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing (Miles, 2014). In the data reduction stage, researchers selected relevant information from interview transcriptions. In the data presentation stage, the information was organized into thematic narratives. The final stage was drawing conclusions based on the patterns and themes identified. Data validity was tested using source triangulation through comparisons of interview data, observations, and mosque activity documents (Sugiyono, 2022). This method was chosen to provide a comprehensive overview of how mosques carry out their function of moral development and preventing deviant behavior, such as online gambling.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. The Role of Mosques in Society

The word "mosque" literally means a place of prostration, serving as a place of

worship to God, such as prayer. The role of mosques in community life is not limited to their role as a place for Muslims to perform ritual worship, but also as a center for community empowerment, strategically serving in fostering morals and strengthening religious and moral values (Abdullah, 2022). The Prophet Muhammad built the Quba Mosque as the first place of worship in Islam after his migration to Medina. Shortly thereafter, the Prophet's Mosque was built, serving as the center of religious, social, political, and educational activities for Muslims. From the era of the Caliphs to the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties, the mosque's function continued to evolve as a center for preaching, government administration, and the development of knowledge.

Since the time of the Prophet Muhammad, mosques have been multifunctional social institutions, serving as centers of Islamic education, places for deliberation, spaces for community development, and bastions of defense for Muslims (Azra, 2019). In Indonesia, with a predominantly Muslim population, finding mosques is certainly not difficult. In the modern era, the role of mosques has expanded in response to global challenges, including the phenomenon of digitalization, moral degradation, and the rise of social problems such as radicalism, intolerance, and online gambling practices. Mosques can also serve as agents of strengthening religious moderation through da'wah activities, youth development, religious literacy, and positive activities or programs that instill a tolerant, inclusive, and wise attitude in religion (Muhasim, 2023).

Mosques have significant potential in building social resilience through economic empowerment activities, mentoring the poor, and Islamic financial literacy programs that can increase community independence. Furthermore, mosques serve as spaces for fostering the younger generation through

Islamic activities, youth activities, and religious mentoring that can strengthen adolescent morals and prevent them from negative influences such as promiscuity, drugs, and online gambling, which are increasingly prevalent through digital platforms. The social role of mosques is also reflected in their participation as centers for community harmonization through socio-religious activities such as family training, community deliberation forums, free healthcare services, and addressing social problems. Mosques can serve as vehicles for social transformation as well as socio-religious laboratories that encourage the growth of collective awareness among the community to build a harmonious and progressive life. In the context of preventing deviant behavior such as online gambling, mosques play a preventive role by strengthening moral preaching, educating the community about strict Islamic law against gambling practices, and providing counseling and guidance for affected communities. Thus, mosques are not merely institutions of worship, but social pillars with significant capacity to shape civilized societies, strengthen morality, and build social resilience amidst the challenges of the digital era.

The development of digital technology over the past two decades has brought about significant changes in the behavioral patterns of Indonesian society, including negative activities such as online gambling. Online gambling is a form of gambling conducted through applications, websites, or digital platforms that facilitate access for people to place bets using only a smartphone and an internet connection. This ease of access makes online gambling more dangerous than conventional gambling due to its hidden nature, ease of access, and ability to reach all age groups without geographical limitations (Praditya, 2023).

Online gamblers come from various social groups with diverse social, economic, and educational backgrounds. Generally, these gamblers can be categorized into four groups. First, teenagers and students are vulnerable to gambling due to curiosity, peer influence, and easy access through mobile phones and social media. This group is also vulnerable due to a lack of self-control and weak digital literacy, making them easily influenced by advertisements or invitations to gamble. Second, productive-age workers, both in the formal and informal sectors, gamble online as a way to escape economic pressures or seek instant profits. Third, housewives become involved due to boredom, invitations from close friends, or the hope of earning additional income without having to leave the house. Fourth, economically vulnerable groups, namely those with unstable financial conditions, are tempted to seek shortcuts to earn money. In many cases, online gamblers do not come from a specific group, but encompass almost all levels of society due to easy internet access, widespread promotions, and weak digital oversight. Therefore, understanding the diversity of these perpetrators is crucial for formulating targeted prevention strategies.

Online gambling thrives through several key factors, including the availability of illegal digital platforms, an increasingly diverse range of electronic payment methods, and widespread promotion through social media. Online gambling platforms often employ aggressive digital marketing schemes, including covert advertising, celebrity endorsements, e-sports sponsorships, and chain messages targeting teenagers and young workers. Some platforms even use algorithms to target vulnerable users, such as individuals experiencing financial difficulties or psychological stress. This makes online gambling one of the fastest-growing forms of digital crime in Indonesia.

The proliferation of online gambling has had a deeply disturbing impact. Numerous cases show online gamblers experiencing financial losses of hundreds of millions of rupiah, falling into debt, and committing crimes such as theft, fraud, and even domestic violence. The proliferation of online gambling also has significant psychological implications. Online gambling addiction has mechanisms similar to those of gaming and drug addiction. As a result, individuals involved in online gambling experience behavioral changes, such as loss of focus, emotional instability, social isolation, and even depression. Adolescents, in particular, are the most vulnerable group because they lack strong self-control and are easily influenced by the digital environment.

The Indonesian government continues its eradication efforts through regulations, website blocking, and increasing public digital literacy. However, many experts believe that resolving the online gambling problem requires a comprehensive approach, encompassing not only law enforcement but also moral strengthening, social education, and the role of religious institutions such as mosques in building community resilience against addictive behavior in the digital age. Therefore, studying the role of mosques in preventing online gambling is highly relevant to addressing this increasingly complex problem.

2. Al-Mujaddid Mosque's Efforts to Prevent Online Gambling

This discussion explores in depth how the Al-Mujaddid Pasar Kemis Mosque plays a role in preventing online gambling practices in the community. The analysis was conducted by linking field findings from interviews with Parnyoto, the mosque secretary, and two regular preachers at the Al-Mujaddid Pasar Kemis Mosque in Tangerang. The interviews revealed that the mosque administrators, particularly an

informant named Parnyoto, have a fairly in-depth understanding of the negative impacts of online gambling. Parnyoto stated:

"Online gambling can result in economic ruin, loss of assets, the emergence of large debts, prolonged stress, unhealthy mental health, family disharmony, and even criminal acts such as theft due to pressing financial needs" (Parnyoto). The religious teachers who provide regular sermons also understand the devastating impact of online gambling on society, especially the younger generation. One religious teacher said:

"We have now entered the digital era, marked by technological and information developments that are transforming the fabric of human civilization. One of the phenomena emerging in this digital era is the rise of online gambling. Online gamblers come from a wide range of ages, from children to teenagers to the elderly. I've seen the devastating impact of online gambling, with some even committing suicide due to the heavy debts stemming from online gambling." (Ustadz 1).

Field findings indicate that mosque administrators and religious teachers demonstrate a strong social sensitivity to the risks of changing times and are aware of the negative impacts of online gambling. This demonstrates a responsive approach to addressing significant developments and challenges. This demonstrates that mosques focus not only on ritual worship but also on social issues within the community. This awareness is crucial as it forms the basis for developing more effective online gambling prevention strategies.

The Al-Mujaddid Mosque in Pasar Kemis, Tangerang, offers a systematic and diverse religious program. These programs are designed to improve the quality and quantity of faith and piety in the community. Based on interviews with the management and religious teachers, the activities of the Al-

Mujaddid Mosque in Pasar Kemis, Tangerang, include:

1. Hadith study every day after Fajr. Ustadz recites thematic hadiths with comprehensive explanations. Among the hadiths recited are those regarding the law of gambling and explanations of the reasons why gambling is forbidden.
2. Tafsir is studied every Friday night. The ustadz reads verses from the Quran and then explains the interpretation of the relevant verses based on accurate references. There are verses in the Quran that discuss gambling in Surah Al-Maidah, verses 90-91. Studying the Quran will increase faith (Mukhtarom, 2025).
3. I study the Arabic language every Saturday morning. Arabic is studied to aid understanding of the Quran and broaden Islamic insight.
4. Thematic studies are held every Sunday morning, including moral studies. The moral study discusses gambling from an Islamic perspective and how to prevent online gambling. The methods used are lectures and dialogue between the religious teacher and the congregation.
5. Mothers' studies on Wednesday afternoons and Friday afternoons. At Al-Mujaddid mosque, there is also a community of mothers who routinely hold studies with selected themes around faith, worship, mu'amalah, and morality. The urgency of this study is to improve the quality of faith and piety to Allah.

Overall, the program at the Al-Mujaddid Mosque emphasizes that mosques are not merely places of worship, but also centers of community education and spaces for moral transformation. The mosque integrates material on the dangers of online gambling into thematic studies for the Ahad (Sunday)

morning prayers. Informants explained that mosque administrators actively provide counseling on the moral harm of gambling, its impact on families, and the threat of religious punishment. This strategy is consistent with the contextual da'wah model, a da'wah method that responds to current issues experienced by the congregation. Moral studies serve as a medium for raising awareness that online gambling is not only sinful but also detrimental to social life. The delivery of evidence-based messages and empirical reality helps the congregation understand the potential risks. The cleric stated:

"I receive regular invitations to lead religious studies every Sunday morning. My topics include the phenomenon of online gambling and solutions to avoid it. I strive to provide enlightenment and encourage the community at the mosque to be aware of the dangers of online gambling, which can destroy families and lead to potential criminal activity," (Ustadz 2).

This strategy is consistent with the contextual preaching model, a preaching method that responds to current issues in society. The material presented is based on the Quran and Sunnah, convincing the congregation that gambling is prohibited by Islam. The lecture's easy-to-understand language will undoubtedly be easily accepted by the congregation, which includes children, teenagers, and adults.

Research results show that the Al-Mujaddid Mosque has played a significant role in preventing online gambling. Strategies for moral education and strengthening faith provide a strong foundation for preventing moral degradation and deviant behavior. Routine programs such as hadith studies, interpretations, women's religious studies, and thematic studies serve as educational tools that have a broad positive impact on the congregation. In the digital era, the role of mosques is strategic, as society

becomes increasingly vulnerable to addictive behavior. Mosques have the capacity to serve as spaces for fostering a community that is adaptive to technological developments and social change. By integrating digital issues into their study materials, mosques can serve as moral bulwarks for the community. Overall, this discussion confirms that mosques can be key actors in preventing digital deviations such as online gambling, especially when managed by administrators with a high level of social awareness and a structured development program.

D. CONCLUSION

Mosques hold a strategic position at the forefront of community development amidst the complexity of contemporary socio-religious issues. The rapid growth of online gambling in Indonesia not only undermines families' economic well-being but also weakens moral control and triggers various destructive behaviors such as addiction, crime, and the disintegration of family relationships. Through religious studies, thematic preaching, and moral development, mosques can provide education that instills theological awareness regarding the prohibition of gambling and its negative impacts, as explained in previous studies that mosques are effective spaces for the internalization of moral and spiritual values in society. Furthermore, the digital era, characterized by the rapid flow of information, hoaxes, and consumerist behavior, further emphasizes the importance of mosques as centers of community education.

One mosque that is working to prevent online gambling is the Al-Mujaddid Mosque in Pasar Kemis, Tangerang. The Al-Mujaddid Mosque has played a significant role in preventing online gambling. The mosque's strategy of moral education and strengthening faith provides a strong foundation in preventing moral deviation,

particularly online gambling. Regular programs, such as hadith studies, interpretations, women's religious studies, and thematic studies, can improve faith and piety and serve as educational resources that positively impact the surrounding community.

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