

# Children Aggressive Behavior: *Child Development Implications Due to Father's Gambling*

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**Abstract**— Family harmony has a significant relationship with children development, as well as gambling family. The focus of this paper examines the development of children in gambling families. The research design used is phenomenology with an analysis that refers to the perspective of Creswell. Data obtained through interviews and observations.

This paper found some substance results, namely in families whose fathers were involved in gambling, there was a transformation of an idol in the family from a father to mother figure. The cause is the absence of father involvement in the development of the child and the failure of the father to become a role model in the family. Children who are disappointed and angry at the figure of a gambling father, have a tendency to behave aggressively. Aggressive behavior by children is like resigning from the environment because they feel ashamed and difficult to socialize, become temperament, and commit acts of violence both physically and verbally. Recommendations are given to families involved in gambling to pay more attention to the possible impact of parental gambling on child development and take precautionary measures. Further research is needed to examine the deeper impact of parent gambling on children from a child's perspective.

**Keywords**—*gambling, problem gambling, family, child development, children aggressive behavior, Surabaya*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Gambling is a branch of the entertainment industry where a person risks things or valuable objects (usually money) in an uncertain possibility to get greater results [1]. Gambling is considered a means of earning money through lotteries, card games, and betting on sporting events and gambling in animal competitions [2].

Most people do gambling for pleasure and satisfaction. However, gambling carries with it the risk of harm to individuals and social [3], finance, employment and physical health [4]. Gambling is also associated with addiction and impulsive attitudes and some negative personalities [5], [6], depression, substance abuse, crime, and suicide [7], [8].

Gambling does not only affect the perpetrators, but also families and communities. Gambling problems for families include: tension and conflict in family relationships, loss of trust, financial destruction; the level of anxiety, anxiety and depression, physical health problems, and alienation from friends and family [9]. Gambling also influences person's

socio-economic and political position, and also damages the culture in society [10].

Gambling has a big impact on family members [11]. Gamblers experience problems with parents, spouses and children. Couples are very vulnerable to the negative effects of gambling [12]. Family members of gamblers are at risk of experiencing stress, and high levels of tension in the form of physical and psychological symptoms, dilemmas and difficulties in obtaining social support [13]. Marriage that one of their partners has a gambling problem has been found tends to end 'split up' or 'divorced' [14].

Problems that often occur in gambling families include violence. The majority of violence is committed against spouses or ex-spouses. The most common types of violence (both for perpetrators and victims) are verbal abuse "insulted or ridiculed", and "scream or curse" [15]. Although most of the discussion about gambling focuses on couples, several studies have specifically examined the side effects of having a member of a gambler in the family on children such as physical presence and parental attention to children, emotional problems, family estrangement, loss of security, material and lack of finance, symptoms of depression and doing delinquency [16].

Families in Singapore apply for help to overcome the adverse effects of gambling committed by family members [17]. In Australia, out of 120 families who have gambling problems, 52.5% report acts of family violence [18]. While a third of New Zealand children are at risk of having problems related to well-being, psychological, financial and home pressure, which makes children have poor health outcomes in childhood and later life [19].

The family as a major part of the community, family stability, is related to the stability of society. While the growth of a child is related to the condition of the family, society, and the future of the country [20]. The family is an interrelated organization. This means that changes in one member can affect other members and the family system as a whole [21]. Children as part of the family are strongly influenced by parenting [22].

Parents in the family give attention, love and become role models for children. Education in the family is the main education and is first obtained by children [23]. Education at an early age that children receive is the foundation of their noble character in the future. The parenting system applied

by parents is closely related to the development of children's character [24].

Previous studies have discussed gambling behavior [1]–[3], gambling problems [5], [6] and the effects of gambling on families [9], [12] claiming psychological impacts [13] and violence in gambling families [18]. Research on psychological disorders and health in children been carried out [16], [19]. Previous studies have examined the effects of gambling on children. However, there is still a lack of research focusing on how parents are gamblers for their children, and how gambling by parents influences the child's development process. So researchers are interested in examining how the role of gambling father and stigma / label of a gambler's child influences the development of adolescent age children in society, especially in the Surabaya community.

This research is a phenomenological research which refers to Creswell's opinion [25], namely phenomenology seeks to explain the meaning of life experiences of some people about a concept or symptom, including self-concept or own view of life. The things that are tried to be studied in this research are how to experience child development in the family with the father of a gambler. This study includes first, how the views or concepts of children towards the father of a gambler are influenced by any of these views. Second, how the child's view of the gambling father influences his development as a teenager in social life.

## II. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses phenomenological research design. The informant in this study were Surabaya native, Women (38 years old) who were married to a husband (51 years) who had a hobby of gambling for 16 years and had 2 children each girl aged 12 years and a man aged 15 years. Data collection is done through interviews and observations. Data analysis was carried out by referring to Creswell's phenomenological theory. Researchers try to interpret the experiences experienced by informant through interviews. Trying to get a deep understanding of a phenomenon under study. Deep understanding is obtained by knowing what, why, and how a phenomenon can occur.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This paper produces important things that gambling done by parents has an impact on children's development. In a family that has a gambler's family member (father) there is a transformation of the idol in the family from Father to Mother, and the children develop to become aggressive as reaction to the father's gambling implications for child development.

### A. *The transformation of the idol figure from Father to Mother*

Surabaya society is part of a culture of 'arek' which is known to be cold, strong character, ignores the talk of others, and is less able to express feelings and attention to both the couple and children. But a father should still be a father, he will not be able to ignore his flesh and blood. In the family, informant have a difference where fathers are involved in gambling, prioritizing gambling and

neglecting the family. So that the transformation of the idol figure from father to mother happened. The reason is that there is no father's presence on the side of the child and the failure of the father figure to become a role model, and the mother who becomes a central figure in the family.

First, the presence of a father on the side of the child includes physical, mental and material presence. The existence of a gambling father on the side of the children is lacking because there is rarely at home. Father's activity is centered on work and gambling, having no time for family, especially children.

*"... after going home from work dad go for gambling. Even on holidays, always gambling. Dad is rarely at home. Communication, both from father to child and from children to fathers is virtually nonexistent. All children's affairs are left to the mother completely. "*

In Creswell's opinion, everyone has his own concept and outlook on life. For children, the father figure needed is a father who is attentive, can be a friend, and a place to seek refuge, a figure who is relied on in meeting needs. However, gambling has claimed the father's figure of his children. For my father his gambling hobby was more important, the children also felt insignificant for his father.

There is an assumption in society that father's duty is to make a living and care for children is the responsibility of the mother. However, this is not appropriate to maintain. There are many mothers now who help their husbands fulfill their family's economy by working. In addition, the existence of a father figure on the side of the child is very important. In the process of development, children need the presence of both parents (father and mother) as role models and also a source of love.

Second, as a role model, a father should become a good example for children. However, the father actually gives an example that is not good by behaving in a manner that is not in accordance with the rules that apply in society, namely gambling.

*"... children know their father is a gambler. There is a fear that children will imitate their father's behavior. Children know that gambling is prohibited and has no benefit. Thankfully, children don't show interest in gambling. "*

Children grow up looking at their surroundings, including parents or fathers. One character that is attached to a child is observing people around him. From the results of these observations then perform imitation or imitating actions.

Java society including Surabaya, embraces patriarchal culture where the influence of fathers is very strong against their children. Provision of education and religion needs to be given to fortify children. Children must understand that gambling is wrong and violates the norms in society. So that children will not imitate father's gambling behavior, both in the present and in the future.

Third, the mother becomes a central figure in the family. Women as a wife must serve her husband and as a mother must care for and care for children. Circumstances make a mother a figure that is always sought when children need something, and always obey the wishes of children. Children also become closer to mother. Synergy with the statement of the following informant:

*"... children close to mother. School problems, friends, personal problems, and so on children will tell mothers and mothers always fulfill all the wishes of children."*

Mother became a figure that relied on children. Children are accustomed to conveying their wishes and needs to their mothers. Especially because you know that your mother always fulfills everything the children ask for.

*"... so that children are not shunned by their friends because they have fathers who like to gamble, mothers give money to children so they can treat their friends."*

In the concepts and views of the mother, the mother tries to replace the lack of ideal father figure and limitations himself to always be by the side of the child (because they have to work) with the material. However, the mother also realized that the material alone was not enough to fill the void due to lack of attention and affection from parents. Therefore, the mother gives the child the freedom to be outside the house and play with his friends.

At school or outside the house children can get happiness by playing, telling stories about interesting things or sharing problems with friends. However, in this case the status of a gambler makes children less confident. There is a fear that if friends know about their father who is a gambler, there will be no one who wants to be friends. So that children always try well with friends. Children don't hesitate to spend money on friends. Money can make people become friends. Here, mother, plays an important role because she will always give the requested money as a capital to find friends. So that the mother becomes an idol figure for children, because there is always and always follows whatever is requested.

#### **B. Children aggressive behavior**

The character of the Surabaya people is hard and tends to speak and behave spontaneously, especially when experiencing or being in a situation that does not want, including children. Aggressive behavior of children means the tendency to attack something that is seen as disappointing, obstructing or inhibiting for him. The aggressive behavior found in this paper includes withdrawing from the environment, temperament, and committing acts of violence.

First, children tend to withdraw from the environment and have low self-confidence. Informant convey:

*"...Son is uncommunicative, do not have many friends and rarely go out of the house. The daughter more active, but lack confidence."*

Any act that violates applicable norms and regulations will get bad stigma in society. The stigma that emerges is not only aimed at the perpetrator, but will spread to the family, including children. Cultured of Arek people, especially for those who are older, bad stigma of people around may not be considered as a problem. However, for teenagers, the environment, especially the friendship group, is everything even more important to the family.

Teenagers often feel more comfortable in a friendship environment. Along with the child's development, there are many things that cannot be told to parents and resolved in a friendship environment. Therefore, refusal from friendship groups can be a big blow to children.

For children whose father's status is a gambler is a disgrace. The son of a gambler is a bad label that becomes a burden. Children also become less confident and difficult to mingle with the new environment. Finally tend to withdraw from the association.

Second, temperament. The behavior of child temperament that arises is irritability and irritability.

*"... though not extreme children show signs of temperament behavior, a little angry. Reminded of anger, it was also forbidden to get angry, especially if his will was not immediately obeyed, he would immediately be upset. Never slamming things."*

Expectations that don't materialize bring negative emotions to children. Emotions that arise are disappointment and anger because they feel that the father is not doing the expected role. Children are angry and disappointed at their father but cannot express anger directly. Finally buried or vented on things or other people. Children become sensitive, irritable and irritable.

Third, commit violence. Violent acts committed by children include verbal and non-verbal violence. Verbal violence includes anger, bad talk and fighting. While non-verbal violence is done is to beat and fight with friends.

*"... children feel frustrated seeing their father who shows no sign of stopping gambling. Children often get angry and talk badly about their father to mother."*

Children have great hopes that their father can stop gambling, and the children's family can be like other normal families. Get father's attention, can chat and complain to dad. Because there is no communication between father and child, father becomes an alien figure. Can not even to express feelings of disappointment and anger. The children finally vent their frustration to others. Then informant said, other violence committed by the children:

*"... previously had received a call from school because the child was involved in a fight with a*

friend. The child overhears his friend talking about the person who gambles, thinks he is being talked about immediately and the child immediately gets emotional and bumps into his friend, then there is a fight. "

The negative emotions that appear in the long run are not good. If not overcome, the emotion will trigger an aggressive behavior when it reaches the tolerance limit because children need impingement. Children become sensitive, and are less able to think clearly and easily ignite their emotions until they commit acts of violence.

Father has the potential to be an enemy for children. This becomes inevitable, when children become witnesses and become victims of the selfishness of a man who should be a father who is full of understanding and serving the interests of the family, it is more selfish. Heartache and disappointment with his father, which is owned by children, will be difficult to eliminate throughout his life, and children may 'retaliate' if children get a chance later on.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis above, it can be concluded that family life will be affected if one of its members is involved in gambling. In this case, gambling has taken away the father's figure of children. Idol figures in the house, which generally fathers turn to mothers because of the lack of father's presence and father's failure to be a role model by giving a bad example. The attitude of children's rejection of father's gambling behavior is shown by being aggressive including: 1) withdrawing from the environment, 2) temperament which is easily offended and angry, and 3) committing acts of violence. Lack of a father's role in child development cannot be completely closed by the mother. The emergence of aggressive behavior in children comes from dislike and disappointment towards fathers who are more concerned with gambling than families.

Involvement Father's in child development will positively shape the child into a good individual, not be involved in problems, achieve a better level of education and can develop good friendships with friends, and vice versa.

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