

# Review of: "[Review] Effective Strategies for Combating the Crime of Gambling in Batam City"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

## General comments

Overall the article is well structured and well written. It meets the standards expected of an academic research article in the humanities and social sciences. The article is also based on good legal documentation and numerous academic works that deal with gambling in Indonesia or in general.

The importance of this article is first of all, because it documents a gambling game that is little known to the academic community and original : "Gelper". This article must therefore make a special effort to "describe" this gambling game which seems typical of this area of the world. This article must also make a special effort to understand the interest of players in playing Gelper in the broader social, economic, and political context of Indonesia.

On the other hand, not being an English language referee, I cannot judge the quality of the writing, although it seems clear and with few syntax or grammar errors.

## Specified comments

### 1. « Gelper »

In the article, Gelper is not presented or described enough. Is Gelper a gambling game that individuals can only access in the *Electronic game center* in Batam? Are there other places where people can access Gelper ?

What does Gelper mean in Indonesian? Is it simply the name of the manufacturer ? When did Gelpers first appear ? Who builds these Gelper : is it built in Indonesia, elsewhere ? Are there several generations of Gelper (more modern versions ?).

Gelper, which appears to be a collective electronic gambling table where players compete (?) by placing bets (money, other goods, etc.) must be described in detail.

The logic of the game and its confrontations must also be described in detail. Can it be played in a solitary manner (like slot machines) ? If not, how are the players recruited ? Who manages the money and redistributes the bets won ? Is it necessary to have a special status to manage the bets ? How much are the stakes ? Are they limited to small amounts

because of the electronic table ? How long can a game last? How is a bet earned? Can it be doubled or tripled ?

Why, if gambling is illegal in Indonesia, are Gelpers found in *Electronic game center* ? Are the managers of these EGCs financially interested in Gelper ?

#### 1. The qualitative approach

If you use a qualitative approach, you should present first-hand data: descriptions and interviews.

You could describe an *Electronic game center*: the electronic games that can be found there, the layout of these games, their prices; but also in which neighbourhood these EGCs are usually located and who the managers are (are there any typical profiles).

You could also use interviews to illustrate the reasons why people gamble according to the factors you have put forward: 1/ to escape boredom; 2/ to be dragged along by friends; 3/ to earn money to compensate for financial difficulties; etc.

You could also, in the method section, explain if there are any difficulties in approaching Gelper players, in observing them, in talking to them... And say if in your case, you have faced particular difficulties.

#### 1. Sociological analysis

While Table 1 and Table 2 are important in showing the increase in Gelper-related cases and the age groups involved, care must be taken not to over-interpret.

It is difficult to say that with 14 cases in 4 years and 5 cases in 2022: "it can be concluded that a crime of gambling in Batam City is very high". Say, rather, that the phenomenon is persistent and increasing, but not that it is "very high". Especially since you have no other elements of comparison.

As for table 2, it seems that it is mainly the 20-30 and > 31 year olds who play Gelper. Can you provide an explanation as to why this gambling attracts these age groups in particular ?

Are there women who play the Gelper ?

It would also be necessary to describe the players "socially": age, degree, job, marital status, income level, number of children, particular status in the community, etc. and to say what their social trajectory or anchorage in Batam city is.

## Concluding remarks

The article is promising, but needs to incorporate the remarks made above to be clearly understandable to an international readership.