

Motives of gamblers in engaging with illegal gambling in Barangay Guihing, Davao del Sur

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to assess gamblers' motives in engaging with illegal gambling in Barangay Guihing of the Municipality of Hagonoy, Davao del Sur. The study utilized a descriptive-evaluative research design. Primary data were gathered using the Gambling Motives Questionnaire (GMQ) distributed to a snowball sample of n-38 identified gamblers. In the analysis of the data, descriptive statistics and difference tests were utilized. Results revealed that the overall level of motives of gamblers in engaging in illegal gambling is high. No significant differences were found on the mean scores of gamblers when analyzed by profile. However, there is a significant difference in gamblers' coping motives when analyzed according to household size. This means that gamblers' engagement in illegal gambling in terms of coping motives tends to decrease with the increase of household size. It is suggested that the barangay local government shall design family-centered programs that will address problematic gambling problems and engage them in various livelihood programs.

Keywords: *illegal gambling, descriptive-evaluative, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur*

INTRODUCTION

Gambling is a longstanding and widespread human practice whose forms have varied across time. People initially cast lots as a form of divination, hoping to forecast the future or the gods' will. Subsequently, they started to wager on what the outcomes would be. In light of gambling's popularity, it is reasonable to consider what pleasures most people derive from gambling activities and what factors lead people towards gambling rather than other leisure pursuits. Given the differences in people's attributes and circumstances, a lot of studies canvassed many possibilities.

In the United Kingdom, a British survey conducted last 2010 revealed major reasons why people gamble, which include the chance of winning big money, because it's fun to make money and because it's exciting (British Gambling Prevalence Study, 2010). There are five apparent motives for gambling, four being optional and evident and of importance to varying degrees and which may be in differing combinations, including the dream of hitting the jackpot, social rewards, competition, and ostentation.

In the Philippines, gambling is generally restricted by government laws. Whether one starts gambling for leisure or as a way of making money, like most addictions, gambling becomes problematic when one has to up the stakes to get the same level of excitement as before. The legal situation for gambling in the Philippines is an odd one, though, with a state-owned licensing agency, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation or PAGCOR, which controls all gambling forms within the country's borders. Sadly, it has been a Filipino tradition to gamble and has rooted in him, his culture, and his mindset.

In Davao del Sur, Mayor Joseph Peñas said in a recent interview that he had his suspicion. The police, particularly the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, had developed a close relationship with some illegal gambling financiers. He said there had been reports that two suspected financiers of the "last two" (The illegal betting game is based on the last two digits of winning number combinations picked in the daily lotto draws in Manila.) were frequently seen in the company of CIDG operatives.

With the problems posted above, the researchers intend to explore the motives surrounding the intention of illegal gambling in the context of Hagonoy, Davao del Sur. More importantly, the study intended to focus on one of its most populous

barangays, Guihing, which observable houses some forms of gambling considered illegal. Thus, this study was proposed and at this moment conducted.

METHOD

The study employed descriptive and evaluative research designs in the conduct of the study. Descriptive research is used to describe the characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied. It does not answer questions about how/when/why the characteristics occurred. Rather it addresses the "what" question. Likewise, evaluative research seeks to assess or judge in some way, providing useful information about something other than might be gleaned in mere observation or investigation of relationships. This study utilized both designs since the study aims to describe and assess illegal gamblers' motivational factors in Guihing, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur.

The study utilized primary data gathered using the survey method, targeting persons who gamble or engaged in illegal gambling activities. Because the respondents or informants' nature is quite difficult to locate, the study used snowball sampling. Snowball sampling is a non-probability sampling technique used by researchers to identify potential subjects in studies where subjects are hard to locate. In this study, a total of 38 respondents were tapped as a final respondent sample. Table 1 shows the distribution of the respondents.

The study utilized a survey questionnaire in the form of a checklist to gather necessary data. The questionnaire is composed of two parts. Part I of the questionnaire asked for the respondent's profile. Names were withheld and not sought to maintain confidentiality between the researchers and the respondents. For Part II, the researchers adopted the Gambling Motives Questionnaire (GMQ) of Stewart and Zack (2008). The instrument has three dimensions with five items each dimension. The scale has also undergone confirmatory factor analysis and reliability tests with acceptable alpha values. The GMQ was used in the second part of the study to determine the extent of illegal gamblers' motives in engaging in gambling activities. It can be answered using a 4-point scale, with one representing "Rarely/Never" and 4, which represents "Almost Always."

To address the study's objective, descriptive statistics (relative frequency) were used to determine the respondents' distribution in terms of sex, household size, employment status, and educational attainment. Moreover, a weighted mean was used to determine the extent of illegal gamblers' motives in gambling. Lastly,

Table 1. *Profile of the Respondents*

Profile	<i>f</i>	%
SEX		
Male	25	65.79
Female	13	34.21
HOUSEHOLD SIZE		
Less than 3	10	26.32
3 to 5	14	36.84
6 to 9	8	2.15
10 and above	6	15.79
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
Employed	7	18.42
Unemployed	17	44.74
Self – Employed	14	36.84
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Elementary Graduate	8	21.05
High School Graduate	18	47.37
College Graduate	10	26.32
Graduate School	2	5.26
TOTAL	38	100.0

difference tests (-test and one-way ANOVA) were used to determine the respondents' mean differences when analyzed according to profile.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following discussions center on determining the extent of gamblers' motives in engaging in gambling activities in Guihing, Hagonoy, Davao del Sur. Discussions were presented per motivational factor. Table 2 presents the results per item and the overall. Based on the results displayed in the table, the overall mean score of the extent of the motives of gamblers in engaging with gambling is 2.52, which has a descriptive interpretation of "High." This means that the respondents have a high level of motives to do illegal gambling.

In terms of social motives, the overall mean score was found to be 1.99, interpreted as "Low." Also, the item with the highest mean score was "As a way to celebrate" with a mean score of 3.34 and interpreted as "Very High," while the

lowest mean score was "Because it makes a social gathering more enjoyable" with a mean score of 1.26, interpreted as "Very Low." This means that those who engaged in illegal gambling find it a means of celebrating something or attending an affair.

In terms of coping motives, the overall mean score was found to be 3.13, interpreted as "High." Also, the item with the highest mean score was "To relax" with a mean score of 3.87 and interpreted as "Very High," while the lowest mean score was "To cheer up when you're in a bad mood" with a mean score of 2.58, interpreted as "High." This means that those who engaged in illegal gambling have reasoned that gambling is a form of relaxation.

Table 2. The extent of the Motives of Gamblers in Engaging to Illegal Gambling Activities in Barangay Guihing

Items	MEAN	DESCRIPTION
Social Motives	1.99	Low
1. As a way to celebrate.	3.34	Very High
2. Because it's what most of your friends do when you get together.	1.47	Very Low
3. To be sociable.	1.82	Low
4. Because it is something I do on special occasions.	2.00	Low
5. Because it makes a social gathering more enjoyable.	1.26	Very Low
Coping Motives	3.13	High
1. To relax.	3.87	Very High
2. To forget your worries.	3.45	Very Low
3. Because you feel more self-confident or sure of yourself.	2.92	Low
4. Because it helps when you are feeling nervous or depressed.	2.82	Low
5. To cheer up when you're in a bad mood.	2.58	Very Low
Enhancement Motives	2.47	Low
1. Because you like the feeling.	2.34	Low
2. Because it's exciting.	2.79	High
3. To get a "High" feeling.	2.53	High
4. Because it's fun.	2.16	Low
5. Because it makes you feel good.	2.53	High
Overall Mean	2.52	High

Lastly, in terms of enhancement motives, the overall mean score was found to be 2.47, interpreted as "Low." Also, the item with the highest mean score was "Because it's exciting with a mean score of 2.79 and interpreted as "High," while the lowest mean score was "Because it's fun" with a mean score of 2.16 interpreted as "Low." This means that those who engaged in illegal gambling have found gambling to have brought excitement.

Significant Difference on the Extent of the Motives of Gamblers in Gambling When Analyzed According to Profile

The following discussions focused on determining if there are significant differences in the mean scores of gamblers' motives in engaging with illegal gambling activities when grouped according to profile. Table 3 shows the comprehensive results of the different tests and the mean scores of each groupings per moderating variable. Test statistics include t-test for independent samples and one-way ANOVA.

Table 3. Results of the Difference Tests showing the Significant Variances of Gamblers' Motives in Engaging to Illegal Gambling.

Motives	Profile	Groupings	Mean	Test Statistics	P-value	
Social Motives	Sex	Male	1.95	T= -0.506	0.616	
		Female	2.03			
	Household size	Less than 3	2.02	F= 1.513	0.229	
		3 to 6	1.87			
		6 to 9	1.88			
		10 or more	2.03			
		Employment	Employed			1.74
	Unemployed	Unemployed	2.11			
		Self-employed	1.92			
	Education	Elementary	Elementary	1.85	F= 0341	0.796
			High School	2.03		
			College	1.96		
Graduate School			2.10			
Coping Motives	Sex	Male	2.97	T= -1.775	0.084	
		Female	3.43			
	Household size	Less than 3	3.44	F= 3.656	0.022*	
		3 to 6	3.33			
		6 to 9	3.05			
		10 or more	2.30			

	Employment	Employed	3.37	F=0.488	0.618
		Unemployed	3.02		
		Self-employed	3.14		
	Education	Elementary	3.28	F= 0.346	0.792
		High School	3.03		
		College	3.24		
		Graduate School	2.80		
Enhancement Motives	Sex	Male	2.60	T= -1.965	0.05
		Female	2.22		
	Household size	Less than 3	2.40	F= 0.295	0.829
		3 to 6	2.42		
		6 to 9	2.50		
		10 or more	2.67		
	Employment	Employed	2.20	F=2.38	0.107
		Unemployed	2.68		
		Self-employed	2.32		
	Education	Elementary	2.30	F= 1.119	0.355
		High School	2.64		
		College	2.36		
		Graduate School	2.10		

As seen in the table, no significant differences were found in the gamblers' mean scores when analyzed by profile. However, there is household size. As shown in the table, the mean scores of gamblers with a household size of less than 3 have higher motives in engaging with illegal gambling activities than those with a household size of 10. This means that engagement with illegal gambling in terms of coping motives decreases with household size. The findings above are in the same vein as Hodgins and colleagues (2006) studies, which both showed emerging evidence that the most common adverse impacts of problem gambling include and dyadic relationship dysfunction, financial hardship, co-occurring psychopathologies, and family conflict. Among concerned significant others, spouses and intimate partners are typically the ones most affected, primarily in the form of intra-and interpersonal distress; extended family members of problem gamblers, such as parents, are also financially and emotionally affected.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the significant findings of the study, the following conclusions were drawn, (1) the level of motives of gamblers in engaging in illegal gambling is high, and (2) there is no significant difference in the coping motives of gamblers

when analyzed according to profile, except for household size. Engagement of gamblers in illegal gambling in terms of coping motives tends to decrease with household size.

Based on the results, it was recommended that the Municipal Government of Hagonoy endeavor to make strengthened efforts towards effective and efficient addressing of the illegal gambling activities in the area. Moreover, there is an imperative need to sustain and further improve the comprehensive approach to combat illegal gambling even at the barangay level. This comprehensive approach includes clearly stated policies and strategies to ensure that all responses are integrated and coordinated. Additionally, the government and public offices and the non-government organizations shall intensify their campaign against illegal gambling and its effects on the lives of the families. Then, there is a recognized need to expand and strengthen cooperation and coordination with the community, particularly the civilian security units, to apprehend illegal gambling operators. Since gambling motives vary according to household size, the barangay local government may design family-centered formation programs in the community to address problematic gambling problems amongst families. The barangay can also engage the families in various lucrative livelihood programs. Lastly, future researchers may seek to explore other factors that influence engagement in illegal gambling. Research on policy measures about illegal gambling activities can be conducted.

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