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# Impact of problem gambling on financial, emotional and social well-being of Singaporean families

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## Abstract

Problem gambling has a profound impact on family members. While this has been previously documented, this paper reports on the first study to consider the extent of this impact in Asian societies where the family continues to be a very important basis for social organization. This study, based on in-depth interviews with 50 Singaporeans with a family member who is a problem or pathological gambler, examines how their financial, emotional and social well-being is impinged upon by gambling. The enormous losses of savings, property and lifestyle, the emotional tensions based on constant harassment from moneylenders, the threats of suicide by the gambler and the distancing of social networks place family members of problem gamblers in a vulnerable state. The qualitative data in this paper fleshes out the lived experience of family members and reveals the extent to which the family is mobilized in Asian

societies to cope with problem gambling. While the impact of problem gambling on families is similar across societies, routine mobilization of the extended family and the greater role of public shame and embarrassment in dictating Asian families' responses underscore the need for specialized services in these societies to assist family members to better cope with the financial, emotional and social strains caused by problem gambling.

Keywords:

- families
- gambling
- Asian

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### Related Research Data

- Parents of young gamblers  
Source: Journal of Gambling Studies  
Linked Lives: Adult Children’s Experiences of Late Onset Parental Gambling Problems  
Source: International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction
- Chinese and English Probabilistic Thinking and Risk Taking in Gambling  
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- Children of Gamblers Anonymous members  
Source: Journal of Gambling Behavior
- Problem Gambling and its Impact on Families: A Literature Review  
Source: International Gambling Studies
- Social cost of pathological gambling  
Source: Journal of Gambling Studies
- Parents of male compulsive gamblers: Clinical issues/treatment approaches  
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- Asian Values, Authoritarianism and Capitalism in Singapore

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