



Analysis of Police Efforts in Combating Online Gambling Crimes

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Info Articles	Abstract
Article History Received : 2025-08-6 Revised: 2025-08-17 Published: 2025-09-30 Keywords: <i>Online gambling;</i> <i>Financial risks;</i> <i>Education</i>	Online gambling is a form of gambling conducted over the internet, offering a variety of games such as casino games, slots, poker, and sports betting. With the increasing popularity of the internet and technological advancements, online gambling has become increasingly popular among the public, including teenagers. While offering convenience and entertainment, this phenomenon also carries serious risks, such as addiction, financial loss, and legal issues. Different countries implement different regulations regarding online gambling, ranging from prohibitions to strict regulations. Therefore, it is crucial to raise awareness and education about the risks associated with online gambling and the importance of playing responsibly. This study aims to analyze two things: first, the efforts made by the police in enforcing the law against perpetrators of online gambling crimes in the Percut Sei Tuan Police Sector; second, the obstacles that hinder law enforcement against perpetrators of online gambling crimes in Deli Serdang Regency. This study uses an empirical legal approach with a descriptive nature, and involves the collection of primary and secondary data. Data collection techniques were carried out through observation, interviews, and document studies. The sampling used a non-probability sampling method in the form of purposive sampling, and data analysis used a qualitative approach. The research results show that police efforts to address online gambling crimes in the Percut Sei Tuan Police Station area are carried out through penal law enforcement methods. However, obstacles encountered include difficulty in obtaining suspects' addresses and the perpetrators' high level of information technology proficiency. To increase the effectiveness of law enforcement, the police, as a law enforcement agency, are committed to improving performance, maintaining public security and order, and strengthening relationships with various parties to better carry out their duties.

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a state based on law, as stated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (UUD NKRI 1945), which regulates various aspects of social life. In the Explanation of the 1945 Constitution, it is firmly stated that "the Republic of Indonesia is based on law (*state*), not based on power alone (*state*)" (Sutrisno 2025). Law plays a crucial role in life, serving as a guideline for human behavior in interactions between individuals. Law is tasked with integrating and coordinating the interests of each individual in society, ensuring that these interests align and do not conflict. To achieve this goal, efforts are needed to limit and protect these interests.

Although behavior and actions are regulated through various laws and regulations, crime remains rampant, one of which is online gambling. (Setiawan, Landrawan, and Sudiarmaka 2023).

The online gambling phenomenon in Indonesia is now increasingly widespread and causing unrest. Its social impacts can cause material and moral losses for both perpetrators and victims of online gambling. (Raja, Nasution, and Syahri 2024). In response, the government acted quickly by issuing Presidential Decree (Keppres) Number 21 of 2024, which established the Online Gambling Eradication Task Force.

Online gambling is defined as a gaming activity that uses money through an internet site. This activity is specifically regulated in Article 27 paragraph (2) of the Republic of Indonesia Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions (State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia Number 58 of 2008, Supplement to the State Gazette of the Republic of Indonesia Number 4843), hereinafter abbreviated as the ITE Law. This article states that "Any person who intentionally and without authority distributes and/or transmits and/or makes accessible Electronic Information and/or Electronic Documents containing gambling content." In this article, the perpetrators who can be prosecuted are those involved in distributing, transmitting, or creating electronic information containing elements of gambling.

Distributing means conveying or sending to other people or to various locations. Transmitting means sending a message from one person to another, while making accessible means facilitating access to electronic information or documents by others.(Kuspraningrum 2011). Considering the various types of online gambling games available, the main goal is to keep players engaged and prevent boredom. Some popular online gambling options include online poker, online lottery, online casino, domino QQ, capsasusun, blackjack, online slot games, and online soccer betting.

Law enforcement efforts are essential to prevent and eradicate cybercrime, particularly online gambling, to prevent its spread. Theoretically, law enforcement is an effort to integrate the values embodied in good principles and bring them to life. Furthermore, law enforcement is also an attitude toward actions as the ultimate embodiment of values in an effort to create, maintain, and preserve harmony in community life. As online gambling cases become increasingly prevalent, this problem has spread to various regions throughout Indonesia.(Tardjono 2021).

North Sumatra, a region rich in beauty and culture, is also vulnerable to various types of cybercrime, including online gambling. One concrete example is the online gambling case that

occurred in the Percut Sei Tuan District, which was successfully uncovered by the local Police's Criminal Investigation Unit. In 2022, a man named Kadek Edy Surya Darmawan, addicted to online slot gambling, resorted to robbery to obtain money. As a result of his actions, the man from the Percut Sei Tuan District faces serious legal consequences and faces up to nine years in prison. In connection with this case, the Buleleng Police have also taken law enforcement measures against online gambling. The increase in online gambling cases within the Percut Sei Tuan Police jurisdiction can be seen in the table below:

No	Year	Work	Age	Number of Cases
1	2020	Self-employed and unemployed	30-45	9 cases
2	2021	Self-employed and unemployed	25-40	12 cases
3	2022	Self-employed and unemployed	25-35	8 cases

II. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses an empirical legal approach with a descriptive analytical nature, because it examines the applicable legal provisions as well as their application in the field.(Rizkia and Fardiansyah 2023)The research location is within the jurisdiction of the Percut Sei Tuan Police, Deli Serdang Regency, which was chosen due to the high number of online gambling cases.

The research data consists of primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained through observation, in-depth interviews with police officers, particularly members of the Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) handling the case, and a review of documents and case archives. Secondary data was obtained from laws and regulations, such as the ITE Law, the Criminal Code, Presidential Decree No. 21 of 2024, scientific literature, and official police reports. Informants were determined using a purposive sampling technique, namely selecting relevant

sources who were directly involved in handling the case.

Data analysis was conducted qualitatively by selecting, presenting, and drawing conclusions based on field findings linked to legal theory and statutory provisions, thus providing a comprehensive picture of police efforts in tackling online gambling crimes and the obstacles faced.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Percut Sei Tuan Police Resort's Efforts to Combat Online Gambling Crimes. Implementing policies to combat crime is a crucial step in protecting the community and achieving social welfare. This policy, also known as criminal policy, fundamentally aims to protect the community in order to achieve better welfare.(Shafira, Sunarto, and Anwar 2020).

Crime prevention policy, often referred to as criminal policy, is part of a broader law enforcement policy. Law enforcement itself is an element of social policy, which also encompasses legislative policy. In this context, criminal policy functions as an integral part of social policy, focused on achieving national welfare.(Pratama, Mahmud, and Zakaria 2022).

Efforts to combat crime are often referred to as policies, which include concrete actions in enforcing criminal law. This approach must be rational and fulfill a sense of justice and utility. In combating crime, various means can be used as a response to lawbreakers, both preventive and repressive, and it is important to integrate both approaches. When criminal law is applied in an effort to combat crime, this step demonstrates the existence of criminal law politics, where policy choices are made to produce legislation that is appropriate to the current situation and conditions, as well as the future.(Prasetyo 2005).

In the context of online gambling, provisions are stipulated in the Electronic Information and Transactions (ITE) Law, which is an integral part of social policy. Online gambling crimes tend to utilize modern means, making them difficult to detect, particularly due to the use of sophisticated electronic devices. Therefore, law enforcement is also linked to the provisions of the ITE Law.

In general, in Law No. 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions, regulations related to gambling in cyberspace are listed in Article 27, which states: "Any person who intentionally and without the right distributes, transmits, or makes accessible information or electronic documents containing gambling content. "Medan City is one of the most densely populated cities in the province of North Sumatra, therefore the Percut Sei Tuan Police must be more responsive in maintaining.

A. Preemptive Measures

Preemptive action refers to initial action taken by the police to prevent crime. This approach places the primary emphasis on instilling values and norms in individuals. Even if there is an opportunity to commit a violation or crime, if a person lacks the intention to do so, the crime will not occur.(Amrullah 2020).

Therefore, in this prevention context, intention is crucial, even though opportunities still exist. The Percut Sei Tuan Police have implemented preemptive measures to combat online gambling by educating the public and instilling norms about the dangers posed by online gambling. The Percut Sei Tuan Police have explained to the public the negative impacts of online gambling addiction, which include mental health problems, economic decline, increased crime, and even personal data theft.

B. Preventive Efforts

Preventive measures aim to prevent crime from occurring in the first place. These actions focus on preventing individuals from becoming trapped in the intention and opportunity to commit crime.(Faisal and Simatupang 2021)To combat online gambling, the Percut Sei Tuan Police conduct cyber surveillance through two main measures: cyber patrols and collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (KOMINFO).

Cyber patrols are conducted to identify perpetrators of online gambling crimes, including those promoting gambling games or those responsible for administering gambling chip sales. The Sector Police Cyber Team uses the internet to

monitor suspicious activity and track websites involved in gambling. Furthermore, the Cyber Unit collaborates with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (KOMINFO) to block online gambling sites. They examine links found to determine whether online gambling activity is taking place on a site and then take steps to block access to those sites to prevent the public from engaging in online gambling.

C. Repressive Efforts

Repressive measures are steps taken after a crime has occurred, aimed at punishing the perpetrator according to their actions. This approach aims not only to punish but also to raise awareness among the perpetrators of the violations they have committed and their impact on society. (Arif, Syarifuddin, and Yunus 2022). In this way, it is hoped that perpetrators will not only stop committing crimes but also understand the serious consequences they must bear, thereby preventing others from engaging in similar behavior.

The Cyber Unit of the Percut Sei Tuan Police's Criminal Investigation Directorate has taken decisive action in handling online gambling cases. They have arrested and imposed criminal sanctions on perpetrators, both bookies and players. In their efforts, the Cyber Unit of the Criminal Investigation Directorate has conducted searches on online sites, social media platforms such as Facebook, and in groups involved in gambling slot games.

In each arrest, the Criminal Investigation Directorate (DIT Reskrimsus) used undercover methods, posing as buyers on social media. They conducted chip purchases and arranged in-person meetings, similar to a Cash on Delivery (COD) system.

Furthermore, the Cyber Crime Directorate of Special Criminal Investigation of the Percut Sei Tuan Police explained that the legal basis used to charge the online gambling suspects refers to Article 27 paragraph (2) in conjunction with Article 45 paragraph (1) of Law No. 19 of 2016 concerning Amendments to Law No. 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions. In addition, they also apply Article

303 of the Criminal Code if the suspect acts as a bookie who provides the means, place, and tools for gambling, as well as Article 303 bis of the Criminal Code if the suspect is a player in the gambling.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

Online gambling in the jurisdiction of the Percut Sei Tuan Police Station takes various forms, including online lottery, Higgs Domino/Scatter, and online poker, all of which utilize the internet through computers and smartphones. The local police have demonstrated a strong commitment to eradicating this practice through two main channels: prevention and enforcement. Preventive efforts include providing legal education to the public and collaborating with sub-district and village officials to improve understanding of the criminal provisions for gambling as stipulated in the Criminal Code. This step aims to raise legal awareness so that the public stays away from online gambling activities. Meanwhile, repressive efforts are carried out through investigations, monitoring, surveillance, and direct raids on suspected locations, in collaboration with local residents. However, these eradication efforts are not without obstacles, such as low public participation in outreach, protection from certain individuals, difficulties in gathering evidence, and challenges in apprehending the main actors. These obstacles require more innovative strategies to ensure effective and sustainable law enforcement.

B. Suggestion

It is recommended that the Police strengthen outreach by involving community leaders, increase cyber monitoring, and take firm action against those protecting perpetrators so that the eradication of online gambling is more effective.

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