

# Determination of the Social and Economic Burden of Gambling Harm in The Iraq

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## Abstract

Research problem: Determination of the Social and Economic Burden of Gambling Harm in The IRAQ.

Objectives: To assess the level of gambling addiction among the gambler in the Iraq's' roulette casino. To find out the association between social burden and their demographic characteristics such as (gender, age, and economic status), and to determine the social and economic burden of gambling harm.

Methodology: descriptive study is carried throughout to assess the impact of the gamble upon gamblers social and economic states in the Iraq's' roulette casino for the period of September 1st, 2018, to April 2nd, 2021. The present study is conducted in different settings that include roulette casino. A non-probability "purposive" sample of (232) participants is selected. An instrument was constructed for the intent of the study. It is content of (six) domains. The instrument included three parts: sociodemographic variables, gambling addiction and the social burden among the gambler in the Iraq's' roulette casino. The researcher used descriptive statistics tools such as frequency, percentage, mean of score and used in inferential statistics such as Chi-Square. Results: The findings of the study indicate that the study samples (65.9%) they have severed gambling addiction level, while (18.1%) they have moderate gambling addiction level and (15.9%) they have mild gambling addiction level. Also, the findings of the study indicate that (58.2) they have moderate social burden level, while (26.3%) they have severed social burden level and (15.5%) they have mild social burden level. Conclusions: There is sever gambling addiction level. There is strong and high association between social and economic burden and gambling.

Keywords: Determination, Social, Economic, Burden, Gamble

## 1. Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the sociodemographic data among the gambler in the Iraq's' roulette casino.
2. To assess the level of gambling addiction among the gambler in the Iraq's' roulette casino
3. To determine the social burden of gambling harm in the IRAQ
4. To determine the economic burden of gambling harm in the IRAQ
5. To find out the association between social and economic burden and their demographic characteristics such as (gender, age, social status, level of education, residential, occupational and economic status).

## 2. Introduction

Gambling has a long pedigree, going back millennia and pervading many cultures and societies. The effects of gambling can be study, where impacts are divided into social, health and well-being status, economic status and effect of the job status. "These groups manifest in personal, interpersonal, and societal levels. Individual impacts cause effects on a personal level to gamblers themselves. External impacts influence the interpersonal and community levels and concern other people. The temporal level indicates to the development, hardness and scope of the gambling impact" [1] The economic impacts of casinos analyzed in the literature include local employment and wages, government tax revenues, consumer benefits, industry competition, and economic development. The social impacts of gambling generally

consist of a long list of mostly negative impacts that are often attributed to disordered gamblers. "These negative social effects may include bankruptcy, crime, personal health issues, and family problems .[2]

## 3. Methodology

Design of the study: A descriptive design is carried throughout to assess the impact of the gamble upon gamblers social and economic states in the Iraq's' roulette casino for the period of September 1nd 2018 to April 4th 2021. The present study is conducted in different settings that include roulette casino. Research on the impacts of casinos falls generally into two categories: economic and social.

Sample of the study: The sample was (a non-probability) purposive sample of (232) participants is selected.

Part1: The Socio-demographic information

This domain includes: (age, gender,).

Part 2: Gambling Addiction: consists of (4) items.

Part 3: Social Burden domains among the gambler that included:

Social Burden: consists of (8) items.

Lifestyle Burden: consists of (9) items.

The job Burden: consists of (7) items.

Health Burden: consists of (3) items.

Study instrument: A questionnaire was formed by the researcher to quest the study objectives. Available of relevant literature were extensively reviewed to find the appropriate instrument for the study.

The levels of gambling addiction among people gambling in roulette halls are determined based on the sum of items scores

### 4. Data Analysis

The study results were assessed and analyzed using (SPSS, Version 26). The researcher used descriptive statistics tools such as frequency, percentage, mean of score and used in inferential statistics such as Chi-Square, Pearson correlation).

Ethical considerations: Approval achieved from the Council of the Nursing College/ University of Baghdad and Ethical Researches Committee for the study. Approval for this study was obtained from the Ministry of Interior and Tourism as well as permission from the study participants. Written consent was obtained from all participants.

### 5. Results

**(Table 1): Socio- demographic characterizes of the sample.**

No.	Variable		
1	Gender	f.	%
1	Male	230	99.1
2	Female	2	.9
	Total	232	100.0
2	Age (year)	F.	%
1	-18 Year	22	9.5
2	19-28 Year	38	16.4
3	29-38 Year	69	29.7
4	39-48 Year	65	28.0
5	49- Year	38	16.4
	Total	232	100.0

according to the data in the table (99.1%) were male, and (9.0%) were female. Also, shows that (29.7%, 28%) of sample with in the age groups (29-38 and 39-48 years respectively).

**Table (2.A): Gambling addiction among the gambler in the Iraq's roulette casino.**

No.	Levels (Gambling Addiction)	f.	%
	No	9	3.9
1	Mild	28	12.1
2	Moderate	42	18.1
3	Sever	153	65.9
	Total	232	100.0

according to the data in the table (65.9%) they have sever gambling addiction level,

**Table (2.B) Descriptive analysis about addiction**

	Categories	Answer	No.	%
1	I wish to leave the gamble	yes	170	73.3
		No	62	26.7
2	I can leave the gamble	yes	72	31.0
		No	160	69.0

No.=number %=percentage according to the data in the table (73.3%) there are wish to leave the gamble play, also a 69% of those who can't leave the gamble play, that indicate there sever addiction on gamble game

**Table (3 A ) Descriptive analysis and stander deviation of economic state**

N	Items	Answer	No.	%	X	S. D
1-	Lost a lot of money	Yes	202	87.1%	1.13	.336
		No	30	12.9%		
2	Loss of significant	Yes	130	56.0%	1.44	.497

	assets (e.g., Car)	No	102	44.0%		
3	Loss of significant assets (e.g., home)	Yes	100	43.1%	1.57	.496
		No	132	56.9%		
4	Less spending on (medications and healthcare)	Yes	139	59.9%	1.40	.491
		No	93	40.1%		
5	Less spending on (food)	Yes	92	39.7%	1.60	.490
		No	140	60.3%		
6	Less spend on (insurances and education)	Yes	128	55.2%	1.45	.498
		No	104	44.8%		
7	Less spending on (car and home maintenance)	Yes	139	60.2%	1.40	.491
		No	92	39.8%		
8	Less spending on recreational expenses such as eating out, going to movies	Yes	166	71.6%	1.28	.452
		No	66	28.4%		
		No	97	41.8%		
9	Reduction of my vailable spending money	Yes	158	68.1%	1.32	.467
		No	74	31.9%		
10	Reduction of my savings	Yes	164	70.7%	1.29	.456
		No	68	29.3%		
	Mean_money		232	1.3911	.21485	

No.=number %=percentage X=mean S. D= stander deviation Results out of this table reveal that 87.1% of the sample after gambling had lost of a lot money, home, car and less spending on medications and health care, food, education, car and home maintenance, recreational, late payments on bills (e.g. utilities, electricity and mobile), education of my savings.

This table indicates that there is highly significant association between economic dimension and lifestyle dimension at P < 0.05.

**Table (3.B): Association between economic dimension and economic dimension**

Pearson Chi-Square	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	Sig.
Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>	23.181 <sup>a</sup>	1	0.000	HS
Likelihood Ratio	23.033	1	0.000	HS
Fisher's Exact Test	23.173	1	.0000	HS

X: Chi-square, df: Degree of freedom, Sig: Significance.

This table indicates that there is highly significant association between economic dimension and health dimension at P < 0.05.

**Table ( 3.B): Association between economic dimension and health dimension**

Sig	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)	df	Value	Pearson Chi-Square
HS	0.000	1	15.065 <sup>a</sup>	Continuity Correction <sup>b</sup>
HS	0.000	1	14.883	Likelihood Ratio
HS	.0000	1	15.055	Fisher's Exact Test

X: Chi-square, df: Degree of freedom, Sig: Significance.

This table shows that there is a high significant and significant relationship between (social burden) with socio- demographic (age, social status, occupational and economic status) at p value ≤ 0.05. Also, there is a significant relationship between (financial burden) with socio- demographic (economic status) at p value ≤ 0.05. Also, this table shows that there is a high significant and significant relationship between (lifestyle burden) with socio- demographic (social status, residential and

economic status) at p value ≤ 0.05. Also, there is a high significant and significant relationship between (job burden) with Socio- demographic (occupational and economic status) at p value ≤ 0.05. Also, there is a high significant and significant relationship between (health burden) with socio- demographic (gender, social status, and economic status) at p value ≤ 0.05.

**Table 4: Social burden among the gambler in the Iraq's roulette casino.**

No.	(Social Burden)	f.	%
1	Normal Social Interaction	83	35.8
2	Social Burden	149	64.2
	Total	232	100.0

This table clarify as regarding social burden, the study sample (64.2 %) they have social burden, while (35.8 %) they have normal social interaction.

**Table ( 5.A) Descriptive analysis and stander deviation of lifestyle dimension.**

N	Items	Answer	No.	%	X	S.D
1	Neglected my hygiene	yes	73	31.5%	1.69	465
		No	159	68.5%		
2	Increased consumption of alcohol	yes	125	53.9%	1.46	500
		No	107	46.1%		
3	Increased use of tobacco	yes	174	75.0%	1.25	434
		No	58	25.0%		
4	Did not eat as much or often as I should	yes	56	24.1%	1.76	429
		No	176	75.9%		
5	Reduced physical activities	yes	164	70.7%	1.29	456
		No	68	29.3%		
6	Loss of sleep due to spending time gambling	yes	136	58.6%	1.41	494
		No	96	41.4%		
7	Loss of sleep due to stress and worry	yes	128	55.2%	1.45	498
		No	104	44.8%		
	Mean of lifestyle D.		232	1.4729	.17726	

No.=number %=percentage X =mean S. D= stander deviation

The results out of this table indicate that there are highly effect the gambling on the study sample, as they became more consuming alcohol and cigarettes, reduced physical activities, loss of sleep due to spending time gambling and loss of sleep due to stress and worry.

**Table 5.B: Lifestyle burden among the gambler in the Iraq's' roulette casino**

No.	Levels (Lifestyle Burden)	f.	%
1	Normal Lifestyle Domain	110	47.4
3	Lifestyle Burden	122	52.6
	Total	232	100.0

This table clarify as regarding lifestyle burden, the study sample (52.6 %) they have lifestyle burden, while (47.4%) they have normal lifestyle domain.

**Table ( 6.A) Descriptive analysis and stander deviation of job dimension.**

N	Categories	Answer	No.	%	X	S.D
1	Late of my job	yes	122	52.6%	1.471	.46
		no	110	47.4%		
2	Absent of my job	yes	125	53.9%	1.46	.500
		No	107	46.1%		
3	Reduced my performance	yes	143	61.6%	1.38	.487
		no	89	38.4%		
4	Lack of progression in	yes	128	55.2%	1.45	.498

	my job	no	104	44.8%		
5	Used my work resources to gamble	yes	102	44.0%	1.56	497
		no	130	56.0%		
6	Conflict with my colloquies	yes	123	53.0%	1.47	500
		no	109	47.0%		
7	Lost my job	yes	67	28.9%	1.71	.454
		no	165	71.1%		
	Mean Job Dim		232	1.5012	.30107	

No.=number %=percentage X =mean S.D= stander deviation

The results out of this table indicate that there are highly effect the gambling on the study sample, as they became absent and being late for work, the performance is bad, lack of progression in the job, used work resources to gamble, relationships with colleagues are not good and there are 28.9% of gamblers have lost their job.

**Table 6.B: The Job burden among the gambler in the Iraq's' roulette casino.**

No.	Levels (The job Burden)	f.	%
1	Normal job Domain	112	48.3
3	Job Burden	120	51.7
	Total	232	100.0

This table shows as regarding job burden, the study sample (51.7 %) they have job burden, while (48.3 %) they have normal job domain.

## 6. Discussion

(Table 1): Socio- demographic characterizes of the sample.

- according to the data in the table (99.1%) were male, and (9.0%) were female. This result harmonious with [Giralt et al. \[3\]](#) males were the majority of the sample (54.1%).

- Also, shows that (29.7%, 28%) of sample with in the age classes (29-38 and 39-48 years respectively). This result was inharmonious by [Giralt et al. \[3\]](#) They inharmonious that the most of the study samples (45.4 percent) were between the ages of (12 - 13 years).

**Table 2:** Gambling addiction among the gambler in the Iraq's' roulette casino.

This table shows as regarding gambling addiction, the study sample (65.9%) they have severed gambling addiction level, while (18.1%) they have moderate gambling addiction level, (12.1%) they have mild gambling addiction level and (3.9%) they haven't gambling addiction. [Browne et al. \[4\]](#) accepts this result after discovering harmful gambling habit. Gambling, like narcotics or alcohol, activates the brain's reward system, leading to addiction. This is because the majority of Iraqi culture is afflicted with a psychological stressor that causes worry, depression, and nervous tension. This, in turn, leads to the individual gambling in an attempt to alleviate psychological distress. This outcome is also related to a variety of factors, including family disintegration, high family pressures, a desire to escape reality, befriending terrible associates, a desire to acquire money quickly and easily, entertainment, and leisure time.

**Table (3 A)** Descriptive analysis and stander deviation of economic state

Results out of this table reveal that 87.1% of the sample after gambling had lost of a lot money, home, car and less spending on medications and health care, food, education, car and home maintenance, recreational, late

payments on bills (e.g. utilities, electricity and mobile), education of my savings. **Table (3.B)** This table indicates that there is highly significant association between economic dimension and health dimension also **table (3.C)** indicated that there is highly significant association between economic dimension and lifestyle dimension.

**Table 4:** Social burden among the gambler in the Iraq's roulette casino.

This table shows as regarding social burden, the study sample (64.2 %) they have social burden, while (35.8 %) they have normal social interaction. This is due to the gambler's persistent obsession with gambling, such as constant scheming to gain more gambling money and lying to family members or others to conceal the degree of one's gambling, which inhibits the gambler from engaging in natural social activities.

**Table 5:** Lifestyle burden among the gambler in the Iraq's roulette casino.

This table reveals that the study samples (52.6%) have lifestyle burden and (47.4%) have normal lifestyle dimension when it comes to lifestyle burden. The deterioration of the gambler's lifestyle is due to many nights in roulette halls for gambling and constant thinking in an attempt to win after each loss, which in turn leads to a deterioration of the gambler's lifestyle, such as neglecting his personal hygiene, eating fewer meals, smoking, avoiding exercise, and losing homework and social duties [5].

**Table 6.A, B:** The job burden among the gambler in the Iraq's roulette casino.

In terms of job burden, the study samples (51.7%) have job burden, whereas (48.3%) have normal job dimension. The deterioration of the gambler's work is due to a long stay in the roulette halls, returning home late, sleeping little, and constantly thinking about gambling and how to get money to gamble in it. This will result in the gambler's failure to perform the job work properly, delays in arriving at work, and constant problems with coworkers, which will result in his dismissal from the job [6].

## 7. Conclusions

According to the findings of the study, it can be concluded that:

1. The majority of sample were shows as regarding gambling addiction they have sever gambling addiction level.
2. There is a direct relationship between the duration of gambling and financial and significant assets losses.
3. There is strong and high association between mean of economic burden. and health problems as a result of repeated losses from gambling, such as after gambling the gambler became chronically ill, become neglected of medical needs and Less spending on (medications and healthcare)
4. There is strong and high association between mean of economic burden. and social burden because of repeated losses from gambling.
5. There is strong and high association between mean of lifestyle burden and mean of economic burden. Continuously thinking about making money by gambling in roulette halls and the result are frequent losses. The lifestyle will deteriorate significantly through the loss of

the basics of daily life such as personal hygiene, loss of appetite and sleep disturbance.

6. There is strong and high association between mean of job burden and mean of financial burden. Repeated staying up for long periods at night in gambling halls in order to win money by gambling, and the result is frequent losses, which in turn will affect job performance and lead to a continuous burden at work such as poor completion of tasks and delay in reaching the workplace and thus will be expelled from work.

## 6.2. Recommendations

Based on the previous results of the study, the researcher has recommended that:

Preventing gambling-related problems among individuals and groups at risk for gambling addiction.

Imposing legal penalties and court rulings that prohibit and restrict gambling.

There is a need for a comprehensive research agenda in the area of gambling. By identifying the causes that lead to gambling in the general population and why it causes social and financial burdens, lifestyle, and job.

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