

# CONSUMPTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS BY YOUTHS: A CONCISE REVIEW

NDIMELE, J. A.

DEPARTMENT OF OFFICE AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, FACULTY OF  
BUSINESS EDUCATION, IGNATIUS AJURU UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION  
RUMUOLUMENE, PORTHARCOURT.

## ABSTRACT

*Pornographic films, also known as sex films, are found in the internet and could be sold and rented as DVDs. Characterized by several features such as targeted audience, sexual fantasy, high rate of nudity and sexuality, it results to several negative effects on family, individual and health leading to divorce, increased infidelity, early pregnancy, transmission of infections, sex addiction, aggression, degradation and abuse of women. The wide availability of pornographic films in different forms and the easy accessibility through the internet has presented a favorable ground for its consumption by different categories of youth including students in both secondary and tertiary schools. Furthermore, pornographic film utilization has also been associated with job status as higher consumption has been attributed to unemployed youths compared to the employed ones. Pornographic films are highly consumed by males than females.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Pornographic films, consumption and youth.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Pornography commonly referred to as porn is an offshoot of two Greek words “Porni and Graphein”; a term known for any literature or art portraying a prostitute’s life [1]. Being exclusively recognized for sexual arousal, pornography has been duplicated in different media variety such as photographs, magazine, painting, films and video games [2].

Pornographic films are presented to create sexual fantasies with the major aim of arousing and satisfying the viewers [3]. Its production and distribution is basically dependent on the available technology and demand as it has been documented in various formats including Home videos, internet copies and DVDs [4].

Schaefer [5] was able to distinguish pornographic films into softcore and hardcore. The former being a pornographic film that does not reveal sexual fetishism and penetration although may show partial nudity suggesting sexual scenario. However, the latter was a clear indication of extreme sexual fetishism with visible penetration. Basten [6] also revealed the classification of pornographic films by subgenres. This which depicts the fantasy sexually created by the actors and the film and the sexual activity displayed by the performer.

In the 1940s, pornographic films production and processing took quite a number of resources and time as they were limited facilities for its production and strict penalty for producers [7]. Notwithstanding, the availability of cassette recorders in the 1970s and 80s caused a huge growth in the pornographic film industry and creation of porn stars such as Ginger Lynn, John Holmes, Ron Jeremy, Christy Canyon and Traci Lords [1].

The pornographic film industry grew more and more in the 1990s as they were now distributed on DVDs which had better sound and picture quality, multiple camera angles and multiple endings than the cassette videos [8].

Furthermore, the introduction of the internet caused an explosive development in the pornographic film industry as these films which could only be acquired by adults from bookstores and mail orders were now accessed online by various age brackets [9], [10].

## 2. FEATURES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF PORNOGRAPHIC FILM

**2.1 Targeted audience:** pornographic films are directed to suit the audience that view and buy the products. Most targeted audience of pornographic films have usually been males [11]. Edelman [12] revealed that pornographic films directed to attract heterosexual males usually presents the female actors as the primary focus. This is achieved through the use of provocative and erotic clothing that show high degree of physical attractiveness.

**2.2 Sexual fantasy:** pornographic films are engaged to create sexual fantasy of the viewers. This is mostly portrayed using the selected actor that conveniently displays these erotic scenes as their ability to create this fantasy using their physical and on-screen appearance is of crucial importance regardless of the pornographic film genre [13].

**2.3 High rate of nudity and sexuality:** the context of nudity is common in the production of pornographic films as actors are required to put on less clothing. Although, the softcore films restrict the display of vulva or penis [14]. Baur and Crooks [15] distinguished pornographic films from non-pornographic films using the nudity rate as the former basically contained explicit sexuality that focuses on audience arousal.

**2.4 Age limitation:** Several laws have been put in place by different nations to monitor and regulate the approved age to access pornographic films as individuals below the age of 18 are not allowed to watch or work in any pornographic industry [16]. More so, strict punishment are attached to defaulters and most sites are advice to confirm users' age before granting access [17].

## 3. THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF PORNOGRAPHIC FILMS IN THE SOCIETY

Several literatures have revealed the negative impact of pornographic films in the society as well as on the individual [18]. Corley and Schneider [19] showed how the use of pornographic films by parents affected their affection for their children as they had little or no concern about them. Pornographic films have also been shown to this orient teenagers on sexual matters as it increased their uncertainties about sexuality [20], [21]. Todd *et al.* [22] and Anita *et al.* [23] revealed that the consumption of pornographic films by teenagers did not only lower their sexual self-esteem but also increased the rate of teenage pregnancy.

Martially, pornographic films have contributed to several dissatisfaction among couples as husbands' desire spouse less compared to women used to portray pornography [24], [25]. In most cases, wives of male pornographic addicts feel betrayed, mistrusted and psychologically stressed [26]. The steady use of pornographic films have also been shown to cause abandonment of marriage [27]. More so, the works of Steven *et al.* [28] and Lo and Wei [29] showed that consumption of pornographic films increased the rate of infidelity in marriages.

The study conducted by Kristian *et al.* [30] revealed that 40 percent of women associated with cybersex pornography had offline sexual partners. Vincent *et al.* [31] and Patrick [32] reported that the use of pornographic films and other pornographic materials have contributed to some cases of divorce in the society.

Individually, consumption of pornographic films have resulted in several degradation of women as most users of pornographic items are males. This is reflected in some cases of rape and defilement [33], [34].

Medically, pornography users have implicated to be associated with several physical and health problems as a result of sex-based crimes [32]. Malamuth *et al.* [35] also revealed that when men consume violent pornography, depicting rape or torture, they are more likely to commit acts of sexual aggression.

The promotion of sexual compulsiveness by male users through rape has also contributed to the wide spread of several sexual transmitted diseases to victims and rapists [36], [37].

## 4. CONSUMPTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC FILM BY STUDENTS

The introduction of the internet has supported in the popularization of sex related contents to students including teenagers [38]. Ojo and Fasubaa [39] pointed out how the sexual changes in the behavior of adolescents in sub-Saharan Africa and Nigeria compared to what it was in the past. Although there is yet to be a comprehensive data on the impact of pornographic item consumption by Nigerian youths, Longe *et al.*

[40] revealed that 32 percent of internet users in the country are individuals within the youthful population. Lanre-Babalola [41] showed that the accessibility of pornography from the internet had negative effect on the sexual act, feelings and thoughts of adolescents.

The research of Cheryl [42] revealed that teenagers of 12 to 17 years consumed more pornography in America. A six year longitudinal study of consumption of pornographic materials in Chinese adolescents in Hong Kong by Shek and Ma [43] showed higher consumption of internet pornography than traditional pornography by Hong Kong high school students; noting that the rate at which these materials are consumed are dependent on gender, family intactness and positive youth development.

Survey conducted on 1,500 adolescents in the US between 1999 and 2000 by Ybarra & Mitchell [44] revealed that 15 percent of adolescents within the age bracket of 12 to 18 accessed sexual materials and 8 percent of the 15 were able to obtain them from the internet. Similar survey by Wolak *et al.* [45] showed that more teenagers accounted for the 42 percent of online pornography consumption in the US.

The transformation of media within the past decades through ICT has also encouraged the high awareness of pornography to undergraduate students [46].

The study of Audu *et al.* [47] regarding exposure to internet pornography revealed that 90.0% of the undergraduate students of Benue State University in Nigeria had stumbled on a pornographic site. They also showed that the proportion of female undergraduate students who had stumbled on a pornographic website was higher than the male undergraduates (90.2% and 89.8% respectively). Igyuve and Agbele [48] revealed that 100% of their respondents sampled in Nasarawa State University, Nigeria admitted the consumption of internet pornography and 80% of their respondents were of the view that its consumption relieved their sexual urges. GregGreg *et al.* [49] studied the usage of social media by university students in the South East region of Nigeria and revealed that students use the social media to expose themselves to pornographies.

The study of Elegbe and Salako [50] on behavior of students in college of education in relation to Nollywood movies. Their findings showed how some Nigerian movies had grown from bad to worse, especially on the part of sex, vulgarity, promiscuity and romance. In this same study, 71.7% respondents supported the notion that home movies encourage sexual acts and promiscuous tendencies among students while 46.1% noted that constant viewing of movies with lot of sexual scenes increased the cases of rape among students.

## 5. CONSUMPTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC FILM BY UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

The idleness of some youth had led to the consumption of vulgar materials as it is a medium and avenue through which they use to while away time and console their sexual desire [45]. The survey conducted by Teferi [51] in Addis Ababa on the influence of exposure to pornography among the youths revealed that from a sample population of n=22 (15-29 years), 54.54% of the respondents who were unemployed accessed and watched pornographic films. He further showed that some consume these films from video houses while other watched theirs directly through their phones using the internet or DVDS.

This was also supported by the research conducted by Beutel *et al.* [52] on the prevalence and determinants of online sex use in the Germany population. They revealed that for a sample population of n=371, 90.3% of the population who were unemployed occasionally consumed online sex materials. In that same study, they also showed that out of a sample population of n=107, 85% of the population who were unemployed intensively used and viewed online sex. More so, they further outlined the percentage frequency of consumption by these set of unemployed persons according to their age. They reported higher consumption by the youths viz: 18.6% and 22.5% for occasional (n=371) and intensive (n=107) users respectively for 14 to 24years, 20.8% and 23.4% for occasional and intensive users respectively for 25 to 34years while 35 to 44 years users had 20.5% and 24.3% for occasional and intensive consumption respectively.

## 6. CONSUMPTION OF PORNOGRAPHIC FILM BY EMPLOYED YOUTH

Teferi [51] investigated the consumption of pornographic films among employed youths and revealed that 22.72% of his respondents within the sample population of n=22 in Addis Ababa who consumed pornographic films were employed and that they watched these films for fun, sexual knowledge and fantasy.

Notwithstanding, Beutel *et al.* [52] also pointed out the consumption of online sex by the employed category in the German population. They were able to deduce that 58% of the employed persons occasionally used online sex films from the population sample of n=371 whereas 61.7% within the n=107 sample population that watched online sex videos intensively were also of the employed category.



Furthermore, they also revealed the gender percentage frequency of the online sex user of the same study. They showed that 62.5% from the n=371 population who occasionally viewed these films were male while the remaining 37.5% occasional users were female. In addition, they also reported that 85% of the n=107 population who intensively consumed online sex video were male; which was higher than the 15% intensive female online sex users for the same n=107 sample population.

Their higher consumption of pornographic items including films by males than females have also been reported by several early researchers [53], [54], [55].

## 7. CONCLUSION

Variety of pornographic films produced are consumed by different categories of youth and the effects of these consumption have not only affected their sexual mentally, academics and psychology but has also contributed negatively to the society at large.

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