

The Effects of Pornography on the Character of Students

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ABSTRACT

This paper will examine the concept of pornography, a portray of sexual matters for the purpose of sexually arousing or satisfying a person and it comes in the form of magazines, movies, videos and more through which some youths are much interested and involved in the acts in one way or the other, especially students which has a negative impact on their studies and their health.

INTRODUCTION

We are in a pluralistic society today. Imo (2005), noted that, this is due to the political activities and social engagements which make the world a global village. Ishaku (2012), noted that, this globalization has gone far to the extent whereby people from different parts of the world with different cultures and backgrounds come to live together in this global world differed from the pre-modern world in which basic means of life like farming and religion control the peoples total way of life but today in the pluralistic society, education is the basic bedrock of every child, for every child needs education in order to be prepared for future life so that he can fit into the contemporary challenges of life in all ramification and the media is one of the agents of socialization, also the magazines, movies, videos and more (internet) help in promoting child education but the same internet magazine, movies are linked with pornography and the child who comes across or in contact with all these sexual activities is being influenced to watch, study and attempt to produce that which can head him to pre-marital sex, early pregnancy, dropping out of school as a result of the pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. This paper will focus on the concept of pornography, pornography laws,

obscenity laws, child pornography and exploitation, Causes of pornography, effects of pornography on the student.

WHAT IS PORNOGRAPHY?

Rincoker A. (1996:1): noted that, pornography is a portrayal of sexual subject matter for the purpose of sexually arousing or satisfying a person, and it comes in the form of magazines, movies, videos, and more. While many people have argued that pornography is an artistic expression, protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution, others feel there is a distinct line between art and "porn."

The Ohio Court of Appeal, in *City of Youngstown v. DeLoreto* (USA, 1969), court distinguished art from pornography in the following manner: "True art conveys a thought, a speculation, or a perception about the human condition. Pornography is the pictures of sex organs and their usage devoid of all other meaning-the personality having no place."

In the United States, pornography laws have been controversial for decades as the government struggles with how to treat materials that are considered offensive to the society.

PORNOGRAPHY LAWS

Richard, D (2002:6), said that, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects an individual's right to own, look at, and even publish pornography. The law has been tested, and the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that even businesses have the right to make and distribute pornography. First Amendment protection does not extend, however, to obscenity, or to child pornography. In these areas, both federal and state pornography laws make it illegal to make, distribute, own, or even view obscene materials, as well as any item of child pornography.

The 1986 Attorney General of Commission Report on Pornography acknowledged that "not all pornography is legally obscene." While the

topic of what constitutes child pornography is less ambiguous to most Americans, the question of what images or representations cross the line into the category of obscenity has plagued the American legal system for many years.

OBSCENITY LAWS

Beck, M (2005:20), noted that, in general, obscenity is defined as any sexually related material that stretches beyond mere nudity. Nudity alone, unless it involves minor children, is not enough to categorize any material as obscene according to the law. The courts use a basic test to determine the difference between pornography and obscenity. This test considers any image or representation to be obscene if:

1. The average person, by modern community standards, would find that the representation appeals to sexual interest, or arouses an unwholesome sexual desire.
2. The representation, when viewed as a whole, lacks serious artistic, literary, scientific, or political value.
3. The work shows or depicts sexual conduct in a clearly offensive manner as, defined by the laws of the state in which the material is located or distributed.

In basic terms, sexual depictions can be considered obscene if they show hard-core sexual conduct that is clearly offensive. However, there is no national standard defining what is considered offensive, and what is not. This leaves the issue up to society's standards, which are ever changing. What people in one community consider obscene, may not be viewed as such by the people in another area.

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CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND EXPLOITATION

Carlos, R (2005:3), said that, Child pornography and exploitation are against the law in all 50 states, and no community standards or “tests” are involved. These laws have the sole purpose of preventing children from becoming victims of abuse and exploitation. Child pornography laws are much stricter than standard pornography laws, and carry very serious penalties.

Child Pornography Laws

Child pornography laws pertain to owning, making, distributing, or viewing any film, video, photograph, or computer-generated image of an individual, under the age of 18, who is nude, or engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Any person charged with a crime involving child pornography is subject to severe penalties, including imprisonment, fines, and being required to register as a sex offender. Once convicted under child pornography laws, a first time offender may receive 15 to 30 years imprisonment. If the offender has prior convictions, or there are aggravated circumstances, he may face a sentence to life imprisonment.

CAUSES OF PORNOGRAPHY

In the previous section, we described sexual addiction as a specific type of addiction called an activity addiction. There is no one single cause of sexual addiction. Instead, there are multiple causes that can be grouped into four basic categories. These four categories are: 1) biological causes, 2) psychological causes, 3) socio-cultural causes, and 4) spiritual causes. Psychologists call this the Bio-Psycho-Social-Spiritual Model of addiction. We generally understand these causes to be inter-related. Therefore, each of these four factors contributes in some manner to the formation of sexual addiction.

Biological Causes

The biological causes of sexual addiction include each person's unique physiology and genetics. First, people differ in the degree to which they enjoy sex. People also differ in terms of what sexual activities they enjoy. Some people may enjoy certain sexual activities or sexual release so much that it becomes very tempting and difficult to resist. Other people would not experience a similar difficulty. This is because they do not experience the same degree of enjoyment. Likewise, the ability to temper impulsive desires with rational thought is a brain function that varies among people. Some people may have an impaired ability to resist certain types of impulses. Thus, these folks would be at greater risk of developing an addiction because of their genetic vulnerability. Oddly enough, normal human brain functioning and brain chemistry make people vulnerable to addiction. Healthy brain chemistry and functioning motivate us to repeat behaviors that are pleasurable (e.g., sex, eating). The repetition of these behaviors ensures our species survival. Unfortunately, it also makes human beings vulnerable to developing harmful addictions to pleasurable activities.

Psychological Causes

Psychology also helps us to understand the causes of sexual addiction. Psychological research has helped us to understand why people repeat certain activities, even when the repetition of these activities leads to harmful consequences. This is because people learn to anticipate some benefits from the addiction even though it is harmful. These benefits can include: 1) stress reduction, 2) relief from boredom, 3) pleasurable sensations, 4) coping with negative feelings or situations, 4) simply the benefit of avoiding withdrawal symptoms. People have varying skills and abilities to cope with unpleasant emotions or circumstances. When people have poor coping skills they are more vulnerable to sexual addiction. Coping skills are like having tools in a toolbox. The more tools you have, the easier it is to fix something by using the right tool for the right purpose. If you only have a hammer and a saw, you will likely

use these tools too often, and the ability to fix things is limited. Many people with addictions don't have enough coping tools in their toolbox.

They over rely on the one they do have- their addiction. Addictions provide a temporary, but ultimately ineffective way of dealing with life's problems. Likewise, people have varying degrees of stress and varying skills in stress reduction. People with high stress, that lack stress reduction skills, are also more vulnerable to addiction. Psychological research also helps us to understand that motivation is critical to recovery from addiction. Without sufficient motivation, people cannot easily change unhealthy behaviors. Simply being aware that sexual behavior or pornography is causing problems is usually insufficient motivation to discontinue unhealthy behavior. However, psychologists can help strengthen people's motivation through therapy and specialized techniques. Many psychological disorders such as depression and anxiety often co-occur with addiction. These other psychological disorders make people more vulnerable to addiction. This is because they may use sex to temporarily relieve the unpleasant symptoms of disorders such as depression or anxiety.

Socio-Cultural Causes

Anyam (2011:112) said that, socio-cultural influences also contribute to the development of sexual addiction. For our purposes, the term culture describes a group's learned and shared pattern of values and beliefs. These values and beliefs guide group members' behavior and their social interactions. For instance, in countries where individual freedom is part of that culture, the pornography industry often remains relatively unrestricted. The increased availability of pornography due to the Internet is another cultural influence. The greatest social influence is the family. This is how culture is transmitted from one generation to the next. Children learn from their family members about sex and sexuality. Relative to the general population, sex addicts are more likely to have

experienced childhood sexual abuse. However, this is also true of all addictions, not just sexual addiction.

Spiritual Causes

Abubakar (2006:120), said that, spirituality is another causal factor that can determine whether an addiction develops and flourishes. Spirituality reflects a belief that life has a meaning and purpose. This definition is inclusive and respectful. It includes the many different, specific beliefs that people have about that meaning and purpose. For some people, spirituality includes specific beliefs that there is something greater than our individual existence. People might call this a higher power; a God; many gods; the life force; the universe; Source; or Spirit (to name just a few). For other people, there is no higher power or religion attached to that belief. These people derive meaning and purpose through a personal set of values and goals. The lack of a meaning and purpose in life leads to a disconnection from ourselves and each other. As addiction progresses, this disconnection increases. This disconnection causes a failure to live in harmony with the universal laws or principles that ordinarily guide our behavior. These specific universal laws and principles may vary according to different faiths and religions. Nonetheless, the lack of a spiritual anchor can also lead to the development of an addiction.

EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY ON THE STUDENTS

They prevent rational reasoning

What happens when you keep looking at a pornographic material overtime as research has proven is that the cortex of your brain is gradually covered by some of the gray matter that should be within your brain and this happens almost immediately the brain detects that it is a sexually explicit material stuff. I don't know whether this is a form of precaution God put in place beforehand when creating us, knowing that we would later have this problem. The problem here is actually that as a result, your ability to think clearly and sensibly is impaired, worse still,

when you're trying to prepare for exams. A greater problem is that after a long time, you may begin to permanently lose your ability to think rationally and this could get worse by resulting in insanity. Try evaluating the thoughts you had and actions you took after you had been exposed for more than five minutes to pornographic material and you'll agree with this truth.

They increase brain restlessness

This one still has a lot to do with the fact that your brain is not created to contain those explicit materials. Anybody that has been in the biz for a while now will agree with me that whenever you pick up your book to read and instead proceed to "just view 'a few' of those nude pictures on your phone", after about two to five minutes, the next thing you just want to do is sleep. This is the work of ero-toxins in the brain. You become restless and can no longer sit down and do something meaningful like reading your books. Maybe I should go into the worst case scenarios and long-term effects, Dr Ken Katas made mention of some of his patients, students who were brought in by their parents to his office who could not sit at a place for more than a minute without standing up or moving up and down. Their parents complained that at home and in school, these students couldn't concentrate on anything worthwhile for up to five minutes. These are the long-term effects of pornography. The moment you can learn to 'sit down', you've learned the highest form of discipline.

They block the pathway for normal understanding

Why God created the part of the brain that is used for academic activities such as understanding, concentrating and remembering, the Brocha Area 24 (BA 24) – as the doctor made mention – to be connected to the reproductive system, I don't know. But it's a fact that that part of your brain that will help you become great in life is linked to your sexual organs, maybe because there is energy to be tapped by right practice of sex in the context of marriage and not exposure to sexually explicit

materials. A picture, they say speaks a thousand words. Pictures have the ability to totally displace words from the memory and in other words, fill the memory more than words. In fact, the things you read and retained are because you were able to create a mental picture of them while studying. I guess it's the brain's way of compressing and zipping files to save space. The very moment words are hit by pictures in the brain, the words are displaced immediately and that can be dangerous when pornography interferes with your study. When you engage yourself in pornography over-time, you gradually begin to lose your ability to concentrate and understand what you study.

They lead to addiction

The last major negative effect of pornography to your brain is that it always leads to addiction. As I have earlier mentioned, pictures are highly respected by the brain and you remember 40% of what you see as against 20% of what you read. I wish engaging in pornography involved just sight, that would have been much better. But, it leads to you wanting to practice and you remember 60% of what you do. Since you remember 90% of what you do applying all your senses as in the case of pornography, the imprint on your memory becomes much larger. As a result of this large imprint, the memories reoccur almost as often as you see the opposite sex and this is what leads to sexual addiction. For the male, it's a worse situation because it is medically proven that whenever a man watches pornography and sees a nude picture, it registers 16 times in the memory while for the female counterpart, it registers only once. This is why a male is more liable to pornographic addiction than a female. Remember that the things that form our foundation are those things that we do when no one is watching. The road to success is the ability to do that good and worthwhile thing that you don't like or that is not as interesting as the bad and potential-killing thing until you begin to like it. Determine to make and see changes in your life. While trusting in God's help, you must realize that it's in your power to say

NO TO PORNOGRAPHY and YES TO POSITIVE THINKING AND ACTIONS.

CONCLUSION

Since pornography is a portrayal of a sexual subject matter for the purpose of sexually arousing or satisfying a person and it comes in the form of magazines, movies and more this will have an adverse effects on students if they are exposed to all those and since they are young and not matured for marriage what they need is education in order to prepare them for both life. Both parents and teachers should work together to educate the children on the negative implications of pornography and to avoid it completely by shunning that.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Parents should teach their children to shun all forms of pornography and concentrate on their homework and assignments.
2. Sex education should be introduced in our secondary and tertiary institution so that the students will know the adverse implications of having sex before marriage which may lead to dropout from the school, and that may lead to destruction of her future in life.
3. Government should come out with a strict law on the sale of these pornographic materials strictly to the married ones who will like to watch in order to satisfy their marital urge and give maximum sexual satisfaction to each other. And when they buy they must keep it away from their children.
4. The church and the mosque should organize seminars on living a moral life by shunning all forms of social ills especially pornography and concentrate on bible studies with the family and devote oneself to prayers.
5. The schools should also checkmate their student from time to time on what they read during preps and where they keep their books should be checked in order to stop those making intensions to keep and catch those that are keeping it.

6. Parents should also establish a close relationship with the children so that they can be able to identify some of these social ills easily in their children.
7. Parents should also checkmate children peer groups and educate them to avoid bad friends that can easily expose them to pornography.
8. The media should try to be an agent of morality by not showing all forms of pornography to the public that can make these youths to be tempted to put what they watch into practice.
9. Parents should buy educative books that teach about having a healthy life for their children.
10. The church should establish a library with spiritual books that will help the children to live without pre-marital sex.
11. The government should monitor what the media shows to the public and if they go beyond limits, strict disciplinary measures should be taken on them.
12. Parents should also educate their children in the advantages and disadvantages of the social media. So that they can live well without being corrupt.

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