

## **Pornography: An Unbridled Source of Exploitation**

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### **Abstract**

Pornography started with thought of sex education but ends up to addiction which is proliferated by the use of internet evolution. Studying the various, peer-reviewed, research reports, as well as the latest reports and surveys, evidences clearly shows that pornography social health crisis. Sexual offences increase with increase access to Internet where everything available at the fingertips of user. Unluckily, it is evidently seen a historic rise in the circulation of child pornographic material, in various forms like videos, images, animations, comic characters etc. which are widely shared on various online platforms. This is visible in type and level of violence shown in exploitation and sexual offences against children. Similarly women bear the brunt of porn's ill effects. Today, a rise in number of porn materials which are depicting artwork, manipulated images and videos, which are also classified as pseudo and virtual porn. In this paper, I focus on devastating effects of pornography in sexual crimes against every age group, gender and each strata of society.

**Key Words: Pornography, Exploitation, Sexual Offence, Child Pornography**

### **Introduction**

Pornography is a social and physical toxin that destroys relationships, steals innocence, erodes compassion, breeds violence, and kills love. The issue of pornography is ground zero for all those concerned for the sexual health and wellbeing of our loved ones, communities, and society as a whole. Studying the various, peer-reviewed, research reports, as well as the latest reports and surveys, evidences clearly shows that pornography social health crisis. While taken independently these studies do not prove that pornography causes harm, but taken in totality, the converging evidence overwhelming suggests that pornography is correlated with a wide-range of harms.

Pornography is similar to that on prostitution, as it is considered violence against women by some and sex work by others.<sup>1</sup>Nobody cares about the persons behind the pornographic materials and their suffering and how they become part of this over growing industry. The association of the porn industry is in fact with human sex trafficking and bonded workers.<sup>2</sup>Pornography is a social and physical toxin that destroys relationships, steals innocence, erodes compassion, breeds violence, and kills love.<sup>3</sup>

Most opposite is the manner in which theorized the relations and sexual activities between partners depicting the dominant power relations between men and women. Where women are generally shown as inferior than their male counter parts.

Women eroticize being possessed, conquered, overwhelmed, eteven have eroticized the conquering, possessing, subduing.<sup>4</sup>

## A. Devastating Level of Exploitation

### 1. On Children

In any humane society, protecting children from online exploitation and abuse must be an urgent priority.<sup>5</sup>The younger and more often children are exposed to such content the more problematic it becomes. Adolescents are more susceptible to forming addictions than adults because the dopamine neurons in their nucleus acumens (i.e. the brain's pleasure center) are much more active and have an exaggerated plasticity in response to addictive stimulus. Thus, it can be said that a propensity for addiction is more strongly "hardwired" into the adolescent brain. Internet pornography consumption by adolescents is associated with risky sexual behavior that can have profoundly adverse effects such as anal sex, multiple sexual partners,

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<sup>1</sup>Violence in the EU examined : policies on violence against women, children and youth in 2004 EU accession countries /edited by MilicaAntićGaber. - 1st ed. - Ljubljana : Faculty of Arts,2009

ISBN 978-961-237-3The terms "cyberenticement", "solicitation" and "online grooming" are regularly used collectively or interchangeably to

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describe communications made by adults through the use of ICTs for the purpose of sexually abusing or exploiting minors.01-6, Pg. no. 69

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-pornography-fuels-exp\\_b\\_6187936](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-pornography-fuels-exp_b_6187936)

<sup>3</sup> <https://endsexualexploitation.org/pornography/>

<sup>4</sup> Eva AederJittay 'Pornography and the Erotics of Domination; Beyond Domination New Perspectives on women and Philosophy, Carol C. Gould ,(ed) Rowman and Allenheld, 1984, Pg no. 168

<sup>5</sup> <https://globalinitiative.net/stolen-innocence-the-online-exploitation-of-children/>

and substance use during sex. Such outcomes are not surprising in light of research into how the human brain develops which shows that adolescents are not as readily able to access their front lobes the portion of the brain that controls impulses and allows for rapid, smart decision making.<sup>6</sup>

The German police, suspecting a 44-year-old man in the western city of Recklinghausen of disseminating child pornography, ordered a raid on his apartment. During their search, they opened a closet and found a teenage boy. It was a 15-year-old who had been missing for a long time, the police said Friday in a statement. According to posters and information that his mother, Manuela Bock, posted to her Facebook page, he had been gone for 922 days.

Ms. Bock had been searching for him since June 2017, when he left a halfway house in Duisburg where he had been living and never returned. She tried to keep his name and image in the public eye, circulating missing persons posters and appearing on a local television show in search of public tips that might lead to his discovery.<sup>7</sup>

The terms like cyber enticement, solicitation and online grooming are regularly used and collectively or interchangeably to describe communications made by adults through the use of ICTs for the purpose of sexually abusing or exploiting minors.<sup>8</sup>

Unfortunately, we've also seen a historic rise in the distribution of child pornography, in the number of images being shared online, and in the level of violence associated with child exploitation and sexual abuse crimes. Tragically, the only place we have seen a decrease is in the age of victims. This is quite simply unacceptable.<sup>9</sup>

Child sexual abuse material offenders can have comparatively high levels of education, and this may correlate to offenders' comfort with and sophistication in the use of technology. Both online and offline abusers may be more likely to have themselves experienced physical and sexual abuse than the general population. Groups of perpetrators constituting organized criminal groups are active in the area of online child abuse, most commonly through the

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<sup>6</sup> <https://endsexualexploitation.org/publichealth/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/23/world/europe/germany-boy-child-pornography-found.html>

<sup>8</sup> Study on the Effects of New Information Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children, UNITED Nations Office On Drugs And Crime Vienna , available at [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Cybercrime/Study\\_on\\_the\\_Effects.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Cybercrime/Study_on_the_Effects.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. speaks at the National Strategy Conference on Combating Child Exploitation in San Jose, California, May 19, 2011.

production and distribution of child sexual abuse material and commercial sexual exploitation of children. The structure of such groups can consist of Internetbased social networks of actors who collaborate in both commercial and non-commercial online trading of child sexual abuse material.<sup>10</sup>

Today, an increasing number of media materials are being classed as child pornography, including works of art and the digitally manipulated images, drawings and cartoons which in some countries are now classified as pseudo and virtual porn.<sup>11</sup>

Furthermore, victims of child pornography suffer not just from the sexual abuse inflicted upon them to produce child pornography, but also from knowing that their images can be traded and viewed by others worldwide. Once an image is on the Internet, it is irretrievable and can continue to circulate forever. The permanent record of a child's sexual abuse can alter his or her live forever. Many victims of child pornography suffer from feelings of helplessness, fear, humiliation, and lack of control given that their images are available for others to view in perpetuity.

A 2008 study in the United States showed,for instance, that one in five American adolescents between the ages of 13 and 19 had sent or posted nude or semi-nude pictures of themselves online.<sup>12</sup>

Child pornography is defined in three stages: production, distribution and downloading of abusive material. All aspects of the creation and use of child pornography are criminal.<sup>13</sup>

Every so often, child pornsufferers are molested by their known ones. These offenders have close access to the children they are abusing; they are people these children should have been able to trust.Child pornography is considered to be any depiction of a minor or an individual who appears to be a minor who is engaged in sexual or sexually related conduct. This

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<sup>10</sup>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Vienna, "Study on the Effects of New Information Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children" UNITED NATIONS New York, 2015, English, Publishing and Library Section, United Nations Office at Vienna.

<sup>11</sup>Feona Attwood, Karen Ross (ed.),Wiley-Blackwell, The Handbook of Gender, Sex and Media . 2011, pg 457, available at,[https://www.academia.edu/31468750/ Sex and the Media in Karen Ross](https://www.academia.edu/31468750/Sex_and_the_Media_in_Karen_Ross) ,

<sup>12</sup>8<sup>th</sup>National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Un-plannedPregnancy, 2008. Sex and Tech: Results of a Survey of Teens andYoung Adults. Available at: [www.thenationalcampaign.org/SEXTECH/PDF/SexTech\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/SEXTECH/PDF/SexTech_Summary.pdf); see also UNICEF, 2011.

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<sup>13</sup><https://globalinitiative.net/stolen-innocence-the-online-exploitation-of-children/>

includes pictures, videos, and computer-generated content. Even altering an image or video so that it appears to be a minor can be considered child pornography. One important exception to the category of illegal child pornography is artistic renderings or depictions that have serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.<sup>14</sup>

In 2011, the USA National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's (NCMEC's) found 17.3 million pornographic images and videos of children, a four-fold increase from 2007.<sup>15</sup> By identifying series of child abuse images through CVIP, NCMEC has been able compile data on the overall relationship of exploiters to children. Data from 2013 shows that 25% of content is produced by a neighbor or family friend, while 18% is produced by the child's parent or guardian. NCMEC also reported a growth, over five years, in self-produced content is 14% and content stemming from online enticement is 18%.<sup>16</sup>

## **2. On Women**

The well-known feminist dictum: "Pornography is the theory and rape is the practice" has raised serious concern,<sup>17</sup> especially among parents and policy makers.

Still just because pornography might portray some women accurately this does not mean that many other women are not defamed by its representations. Perhaps pornography injures the reputations of women who do not desire sexual subordination! Since its audience may infer from depictions of women enjoying such treatment that all women enjoy such treatment.<sup>18</sup>

According to a 2010 study that analyzed 304 scenes from best-selling pornography videos, almost 90% of scenes contained physical aggression, while nearly 50% contained verbal aggression, primarily in the form of name-calling. Targets of these displays of aggression were overwhelmingly women and either showed pleasure or neutrality in response to the aggression. Some studies that have shown nearly 90% of pornography depicts violence while other studies have placed the prevalence at only 2%. One of the most disturbing facts about

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.justia.com/criminal/offenses/sex-crimes/child-pornography/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://globalinitiative.net/stolen-innocence-the-online-exploitation-of-children/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.thorn.org/blog/redefining-child-pornography/>

<sup>17</sup> Morgan R. Theory and practice: Pornography and rape. In: Lederer LJ, editor. Take back the night. New York:

William Morrow; 1980. pp. 134-40.

<sup>18</sup> Diana Gardner, "Pornography as defamation," Pg no. 4

[https://www.academia.edu/22038180/Chapter\\_6\\_-\\_Pornography\\_as\\_defamation](https://www.academia.edu/22038180/Chapter_6_-_Pornography_as_defamation)

the prevalence of violence in porn is that nobody can agree on what they consider to be violent content. What can be proven rather definitively is the association between pornography use in general and violence against women.<sup>19</sup>

Women bear the brunt of porn's ill effects. Many production studios run series sexualizing women at work, at school, and even at the doctor, often with female participants shown as either enjoying or being victimized by violent sexual acts. With entire sections and genres dedicated to these types of porn, is it any surprise we see these manifestations of violence against women in real life?

### **3. On Men**

Pornography can ruin the sex lives of men, and it can have a profound impact on a man's mental and physical health. Specifically, it leads to lack of interest in sex with another person, erectile dysfunction, and normal sexual function. While many incorrectly believe that sexual dysfunction can only happen in older men, the condition is extremely real and can happen to any man at any age. Some signs of porn-induced sexual dysfunction include: being able to achieve erections and orgasms from pornography but struggling with one or both when with an in-person partner, only being able to achieve orgasm with a partner by replaying porn clips in mind, and a man's real-life partner feeling like the "other woman." The number of men suffering from sexual dysfunction from pornography use is increasing exponentially every day.

### **4. On Transgender**

The sexual shame on attitudes towards transgender people was associated with greater prejudice, essentially stating that those who felt more shameful about viewing transgender porn performers were more likely to discriminate against the transgender community. This discrimination often comes in the form of harassment, threats, "exposing" or outing transgender people, violence, or revenge porn. Revenge porn (or nonconsensual image sharing) is defined as disseminating nude or nearly nude photos of a person without their consent, often after a breakup or argument. A study conducted by CIPHR and Data & Society Research Institute showed that the LGB community is disproportionately affected by revenge porn. They found that 15% of LGB internet users had been threatened with revenge porn, as

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.focusforhealth.org/how-pornography-impacts-violence-against-women-and-child-sex-abuse/>  
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compared to a rate of 2% amongst heterosexual users. Even within this data, it is seen that the transgender community was not accounted for, reflecting a widespread lack of empathy towards their plight. A 2009 report found that 50% of people who died in sexual orientation motivated hate crimes were transgender women, with genital mutilation a frequent occurrence. While hate crimes and sexually violent crimes are differently motivated, the biggest contributor to hatecrimes are racial crimes, showing that being both LGBTQ and a person of colour compounds the violence faced.

## **B. Multifacet Exploitation**

### **1. Sexual Assault and Exploitation**

Perpetrators use adult pornography to groom their victims. Significant proportions of different types of rapists and molesters had used hard-core pornography during their adolescence: 33 percent of heterosexual child molesters, 39 percent of homosexual child molesters, and 33 percent of rapists. The current use of hard core pornography was even greater for these groups: 67 percent of heterosexual child molesters, 67 percent of homosexual child molesters, and 83 percent of rapists, contrasted with 29 percent of non-offending pornography viewers. About a third of the sex offenders reported using pornography as a deliberate stimulus to commit their sexual offenses.<sup>20</sup> But with respect to the role of pornography in commission of sexual offences, there are varying results from having only a minor role<sup>14</sup> to primary involvement where child victims are involved.<sup>15</sup> among survivors at a rape crisis center, 28% reported that their abuser used pornography and that for 12%, pornography was imitated during the abusive incident.[18] However, a strong criticism of these studies is that the population surveyed is not representative of the true consumer.

Laboratory studies involve recruitment of volunteers who undergo assessments ,such as their attitude to women, violence, rape, aggression, and sex and pre and post-exposure to pornography. Results indicated that the aggressive-pornographic materials increase aggression against females. However, personality and substance use were found to be confounders. Behavioural disturbances that occurred post-exposure were in individuals who showed more global disturbances of personality. The major drawback of these laboratory studies was again that volunteers may not be representative of consumers in a society and that

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<sup>20</sup>1) W.L. Marshall, "The Use of Sexually Explicit Stimuli by Rapists, Child Molesters, and Nonoffenders," *The Journal of Sex Research* 25, (1988): 267-288, 279.

the studies were short term.<sup>21</sup> Women bear the brunt of porn's ill effects. Many production studios run series sexualizing women at work, at school, and even at the doctor, often with female participants shown as either enjoying or being victimized by violent sexual acts. With entire sections and genres dedicated to these types of porn, is it any surprise we see these manifestations of violence against women in real life?

## **2. Trafficking**

Sex trafficking (a subset of human trafficking) is the fastest growing criminal business in the world and the third largest criminal enterprise since 2010. The International Labour Organization estimates that over 150 million dollars are illegally made through the exploitation of 21 million people in human trafficking. Of those 21 million, 5.5 million are children and 11.4 million are women and girls.

Roughly half of the sample group (including men, women, and children) were used to make pornography films. 80% of those who have been freed from human trafficking were forced to re-enact specific acts of pornography by the people who enslaved them. The majority of these victims are taught how to "perform" via pornographic material.

Perhaps the most disturbing part of human trafficking is that children and young adults are "worth" more than their adult counterparts. So, there is a greater incentive to continually abduct and harm children over adults to make higher profits. The children used by traffickers are primarily those who are runaways, or who are easily manipulated by their abductors.

It means that pornography is not only perpetuating human trafficking, but it is incentivizing the use of children in pornography and human traffic in order to draw in a larger profit. It is literally destroying the lives of children and adults.

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<sup>21</sup> Suresh Bada Math, Biju Viswanath, Ami Sebastian Maroky, Naveen C. Kumar, Anish V. Cherian, and Maria Christine Nirmala, Sexual Crime in India: Is it Influenced by Pornography?, *Indian J Psychol Med.* (PMID: 24860215), 2014 Apr-Jun; 36(2): 147–152. Available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4031582/>

It means that there is a clearly definable link between pornography and human trafficking. Through viewing pornography, individuals are tempted to hire sex workers in order to fulfill the unrealistic scenes created in pornographic films.

It means that because of the high profitability of releasing pornographic material, many victims will be forced to create pornographic films and images that will be released to the populace for profit. This is not people who are wanting to create adult content, but young men, women, and children who are being forced to participate or potentially lose their lives.

### **3. Prostitution**

The 'sex work' position has been extended to the issue of trafficking of women into prostitution through the transformation of trafficking into 'migration for labour'<sup>22</sup>

Women's bodies are now well and truly launched into the marketplace as the basis of large profits for many different enterprises, the telecommunications companies that carry pornography, the credit card companies that the male buyers use, the banks that lend to the industry, strip club chains, the governments that tax legalized prostitution, the governments that gain foreign currency from the women sent abroad as 'entertainers'. In the global economy women from poor countries are trafficked to richer ones, or used in situ by prostitution tourists in what I define as the 'outsourcing of women's subordination' (Jeffreys, 2009). Meanwhile the average earnings of the prostituted women, whose vaginas and anuses are the raw materials of this industry, are well below the average wage in western countries.

### **Conclusions**

Pornography is like a drug, it is enticing and exciting at first yet deceptively malevolent, causing a plethora of concerns for both the user and society as a whole. Challenging sexual harassment, objectification, and abuse must involve recognising that there are certain features of popular culture which encourage and foster the psychological characteristics responsible. One major threat is the exponential growth of pornography and its effect on psychological, relational, and social development. As the increasingly brutal fantasies represented in pornography continue to inform expectations for sexual experiences, the evidence for the

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<sup>22</sup>Agustin, 2007,

[https://www.safetylit.org/citations/index.php?fuseaction=citations.viewdetails&citationIds\[\]=citjournalarticle\\_505604\\_38](https://www.safetylit.org/citations/index.php?fuseaction=citations.viewdetails&citationIds[]=citjournalarticle_505604_38)

detrimental consequences of this also proliferates. The nature and extent of these detrimental consequences are explored particularly with reference to three population groups: women, adolescents, and children.

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