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Porn on Desktop

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Abstract

Simultaneously with the technology development, the access to the information has become easier. Internet is the possibility of learning and pleasure but it brings the risk as far as an easy access to pornography is concerned. During our research we came under scrutiny the scope and frequency of using pornography among young adults and we confirmed how influential it is on the attitude and the behavior of the above-mentioned. 230 t. of people gave their responses in the request research via Internet. These answers proved to be useful to estimate the scope of using Internet pornography. It was shown as well, that pornography has the influence on people's attitude to sexual intercourse before marriage and abortion and changes the attitude to pornography as such.

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1. Introduction

Online pornography, understood as "any form of written or pictorial representation that either is obscene or has as its sole function the sexual arousal of the beholder" (Reber, Reber, 2008, 580), is ubiquitous in the life of every Internet user. Sexual advertisements may be found in our mailboxes or on favourite websites every day, often illustrated with erotic or pornographic photographs. Out of 82% American students exposed to online pornography, almost 69% claimed that their first exposure was unintended, while 74% stated that it took place via online advertisements or spam e-mails (Beaver, Paul, 2011). Among minors (aged 10-17), 42% declared having been exposed to online pornography, including 66% claiming that it was unintended (Wolak, Mitchell, Finkelhor, 2007). Similar data is cited by Taiwanese researchers; with more than 71% of Taiwanese adolescents previously or currently being

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exposed to online pornography, of which 41% indicated unintentional exposure. (Chen, Leong, Chen, Yang, 2013). It is no surprise, then, to learn that 98% of the Polish youth studied considered pornography to be easily available (Cielecka, Franczyk, 2013), and young Swedes believed that avoiding exposure to be almost impossible (Häggström-Nordin, Sandberg, Hanson, Tydén, 2006). 99% of adolescent boys and 86% of adolescent girls from Scandinavia recorded that they have had contact with pornography via at least one medium, most of them already by the age of 12-14 (Sørensen, Knudsen, 2006, from: Räsänen, Wilska, 2007). A similar age of exposure to pornography was found among teenagers from the USA, at an average age of 14 years (Beaver, Paul, 2011). Adolescents pay a high price for their natural sexual curiosity and the use of online pornography, with the development of unrealistic sexual values and convictions (Owens, Bihun, Manning, Reid, 2012), greater permissiveness towards premarital sexual, and greater proclivities towards sexual harassment, especially among boys and young men (Lam, Chan, 2006). The purpose of our studies was a preliminary evaluation of the epidemiology of using online pornography in Poland. The first conclusions of the studies were presented in the article "Porno na tapiecie" (Porn on the desktop) (Cielecka, Franczyk, 2013). The current article is an extension of these earlier study results and focuses on analysing the frequency of online pornography use and its relationships with attitudes toward pornography.

2. Methods and materials

2.1 Research group

The research included 263 participants aged 18-25, consisting of 132 women and 131 men. After determining the scope of online pornography use, the group of individuals who declared they used online pornography was included in further statistical analysis (202 participants, 76.8% of the total group).

2.2 Method

The research was performed using an original survey created in Google Docs. It consisted of 24 closed-ended questions, including 15 single-choice questions, 3 multiple-choice questions and 6 questions on the 5-point Likert Scale. The following three scales were determined for generalised attitudes towards pornography: emotional, axiological and rational. The results for these scales allowed us to specify general attitudes towards the phenomenon being studied.

The group of individuals using online pornography was divided into four subgroups according to the frequency of visiting pornographic websites: (1) at least once a day, (2) at least once a week, (3) at least once a month, and (4) less than once a month.

The survey was distributed entirely via online social media (for a week in May 2012) to ensure the maximum comfort and anonymity of the respondents. The results were analysed with SPSS Statistics 20.0. Due to the unfulfilled condition of normal distribution of studied variables, the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis H test (or the Mann-Whitney U Test for two groups) was used to determine differences between the groups.

3. Results

3.1 Determining the scope of online pornography use

Table 3.1 shows the percentage distribution of the study results, where as much as 76.8% of the respondents admitted to using online pornography, of which 93.1% were men and 60.6% were women.

Table 3.1: Percentage of men and women using online pornography

	Do you ever view pornographic materials?		Total
	Yes	No	
Gender	Female	Number	80
			52
			132

		Percentage of gender	60.6%	39.4%	100.0%
		'Do you ever view pornographic materials?' (%)	39.6%	85.2%	50.2%
		Percentage of total	30.4%	19.8%	50.2%
		Number	122	9	131
		Percentage of gender	93.1%	6.9%	100.0%
	Male	'Do you ever view pornographic materials?' (%)	60.4%	14.8%	49.8%
		Percentage of total	46.4%	3.4%	49.8%
		Number	202	61	263
		Percentage of gender	76.8%	23.2%	100.0%
Total		'Do you ever watch pornographic materials?' (%)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
		Percentage of total	76.8%	23.2%	100.0%

The study also specified the frequency of online pornography use. More than 44.1% of those using pornography used it at least once a week (66.5% of men and 17.6% of women). The statistical analyses also specified that the lower the age of first pornography use, the more frequent its subsequent use ($H_{(3)}=8.507$; $p<0.05$).

3.2 Differences in the attitudes of individuals using online pornography

In the group of online pornography users, it was found that the more frequently the respondents visited pornographic websites, the more positive was their attitude towards pornography, as shown in tables 3.1 and 3.2. This applies both to the general attitude to online pornography and the scales for the emotional and axiological spheres. The result for rational attitudes did not prove statistically significant.

Table 3.2: Mean ranks of Kruskal Wallis H Test for groups using online pornography

	How often do you use pornography?	N	Mean rank
Positive/negative attitude	At least once a day	29	126.17
	Once/several times a week	60	127.53

	Once/several times a month	56	87.65
	Less than once a month	57	75.15
	Total	202	
	At least once a day	29	135.88
	Once/several times a week	60	132.00
Emotional_sphere	Once/several times a month	56	92.28
	Less than once a month	57	60.96
	Total	202	
	At least once a day	29	127.21
	Once/several times a week	60	121.50
Axiological_sphere	Once/several times a month	56	91.20
	Less than once a month	57	77.49
	Total	202	
	At least once a day	29	105.57
	Once/several times a week	60	115.53
Rational_sphere	Once/several times a month	56	87.31
	Less than once a month	57	98.61
	Total	202	

Table 3.3: Values of Kruskal Wallis H Test for groups using online pornography

	Positive/negative attitude	Emotional_sphere	Axiological_sphere	Rational_sphere
Chi-square	32.078	59.972	24.905	7.294
df	3	3	3	3
Asymptotic significance	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.063

Significant differences with regard to attitudes were also observed in those questions concerning attitudes towards online pornography, as measured with the 5-point Likert Scale. The more frequently the participants used pornographic materials, the more frequently they considered them to be more developing ($H_{(3)}=19.325$; $p<0.001$), appealing ($H_{(3)}=59.972$; $p<0.001$), not distorting the image of men and women ($H_{(3)}=12.822$; $p<0.01$) and moral ($H_{(3)}=14.738$; $p<0.01$).

The belief that watching pornographic movies does not lead to sexual pathologies ($H_{(3)}=34.302$; $p<0.001$) and does not distort the development of personality ($H_{(3)}=10.034$; $p<0.05$) increases along with the frequency of watching.

Along with the increase in the frequency of pornographic material use, the respondents also showed a greater acceptance of premarital sex ($H_{(3)}=7.890$; $p<0.05$). A similar dependence was also obtained by comparing the group of individuals declaring the use of pornography and the group of non-users. The result indicated a significantly greater acceptance of premarital sex ($U=3884.00$; $Z=-4.736$; $p<0.001$; $r=-0.29$) and abortion ($U=4028.00$; $Z=-4.689$; $p<0.001$; $r=-0.29$) in the group of individuals watching online pornographic materials.

4. Discussion

4.1 Conclusion

Our study confirmed the belief that the frequency of online pornography use has a significant impact on attitudes towards pornography. Individuals who view pornographic materials more frequently declare more positive attitudes towards these materials (Svedin, Åkerman, Priebe, 2011), considering them to be less threatening, more appropriate, and not distorting the image of the depicted men and women. There is an interesting dependence where the more pornography is viewed, the more developing it is considered to be. It is similar to determining the risk of sexual pathologies and distorted development of personality. Both the use of pornography and its frequency of use also impact the acceptance of premarital sex (Lam, Chan, 2006). Based on the results it can be presumed that the frequency of online pornography use significantly correlates with the attitudes and beliefs of its users, not only towards pornography as such, but also other issues, such as abortion or premarital sex.

4.2 Limitations

The main limitation of our studies revolved around the distribution of the survey via social media. In further studies it is recommended that another method of selecting a study group is used to ensure better forecasting of the issue with the population, as well as to avoid errors in sample selection. It needs to be remembered that the survey primarily examined declared attitudes towards pornography, which in some cases may differ from the actual ones. A more accurate exploration of the method of online pornography use, the character and type of material chosen, as well as the motivation or the time dedicated to the activity might prove very useful in understanding the issue. It may also be important to examine the reasons and effects of watching pornography, and whether and how attitudes towards online pornography impact the frequency of viewing.

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