

Influence of Pornography on the Academic performance of Senior Secondary School Students in Economics classes in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria. A case Study of Some Selected Senior Secondary Schools in Gwagwalada Area Council of FCT, Nigeria

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Abstract:

In this paper we investigated the influence pornography on Senior Secondary School students in Federal Capital Territories, Abuja, Nigeria a case study of some selected senior secondary school in Gwagwalada area council. One research instruments titled questionnaire on influences of pornography on the academic performance Economics students (QIPAPES) Test questionnaire was employed to solicit responses from students. Primary data were obtained from a random selection of 600 Senior High School Students who are SSI to SS3. The data were collected using a questionnaire and then analysed using percentage method. The results indicate that sources of internet to Senior High School Students include internet and social media. Besides, watching pornography films and video is not good for students and that majority of secondary school Economics students source the pornography materials on the internet and social media. However, pornography influences the academic performance of Economics students and makes the student performance poorly. The study concludes that Watching of pornography can lead to unwanted pregnant, HIV/AIDS, lack of career focus in life, rape and incant among children. It is therefore, recommended that the government should place restrictions on sexual content in electronic media should be placed and parental advisory on explicit media content should be adhered to. Parents should monitor their children and make them to understand better the effects of these electronic media contents on them which would help them make better choices when deciding to allow children have access to various forms of media.

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1.0 Introduction

One major emerging worrisome dimension in the Nigerian cyberspace is pornography in its various guises. Aided by technology-induced anonymity, the Internet has popularized cybersex business more than any other means of advertisement. Most crimes perpetuated on the Internet and other IT applications have been largely aided by anonymity. For instance, immoral contents can be viewed in the closet, on a laptop, on a palmtop etc. without the suspicion that any other person will know about the content being consumed. The recent proliferation of Internet-enabled technology has significantly changed the way youths consume sexually explicit materials. With the growth of the Internet, it has become easier and more ubiquitous accessing pornography (Clementina, Efetobor, and Apeh, 2015). Clementina, Efetobor, and Apeh, (2015) observed that with the penetration of Internet into Nigeria's cyberspace in 2001, many youths have upgraded themselves into using the Internet, and this has negatively led to the pronounced level of moral decadence among Nigerian youths. Porn crept into our society beginning from playboy magazine (foreign magazine), Hollywood movies through the display of sexual scenes and then internet. The major carriers of porn in Nigeria are Internet and movies. This research seeks to investigate the influence of pornography on the academic performance of senior secondary school students in F.CT, Abuja using educational institutions in Gwagwalada Area Council as a case study of Gwagwalada area council of FCT, Abuja, Nigeria.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Concept of Pornography

2.2 Sexuality Trends among Secondary Schools Students in Nigeria

Secondary school is defining as post primary school education. It is meant for children between the ages of 10 to 18. Secondary school education is an education that prepares the learners for University education. It is very important education because it has the capacity to make or mars the learners. Sexuality behavior among youths and young adults has been studied in a range of situation. Ojo and Fasubaa (2005) opined that adolescents' sexuality behavior in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa is seriously going through transformation from what it used to be in the past. They attributed this to the effect of modernization caused by industrialization, education, exposure and enculturation through importation of various foreign cultures, which were alien to the Nigerian culture in particular and African as a whole. The major deterrents against these vices were previously cultural orientation and religious beliefs. Unfortunately, the Internet, more than any other agent of social change has contributed in no small measure to the removal of guilt, fear and shame associated with unconventional sexual activities. In a nation where the poverty level continues to rise, children involved in hawking wares to assist in making ends meet at home are continuously exposed to circumstances that can jeopardize healthy sexual behaviors. They sometimes fall victim to the lure of older children or young adults who expose them to Internet pornography in the quest to awaken their sexual responses on the Internet. A trend that is very glaring in most societies is that children learn from the older generations and they learn fast. They also seem to imitate their immediate preceding generation of adolescents in defiant behaviors more than they learn good manners from the older generations. It is noteworthy that sexual behaviors displayed by adolescents are evolving and tending to unabated willingness to try out different sexual flavors discovered through exposure, contacts and otherwise. Adebayo et al (2006) examined the relative contributions of gender and Internet use, as well as their interactive influence on young adults' sexual behaviors in Nigeria. They established an interaction effect between the use of the Internet by males and risky sexual behavior. Emeozor (2005) raised an alarm on the possible relationship between access to pornographic contents on the Internet and risky sexual tendencies that can lead to the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (Longe, Chiemeké, Onifade, Balogun, Longe and Ottie (2007). Clementina, Efetobor, and Apeh (2015) the recent proliferation of Internet-enabled technology has significantly changed the way youths consume sexually explicit materials. With the growth of the Internet, it has become easier and more ubiquitous accessing pornography. Cooper, Boies, Maheu, & Greenfield, 1999; Peter & Valkenburg (2006a) observed that

relative to other media, the Internet is considered a highly sexualized environment. Wolak et al (2007) also affirmed that research has shown significant increases in the number of youths who are intentionally or accidentally encountering pornographic material online. Internet-enabled devices have indiscriminately allowed people of all ages to encounter, consume, create, and distribute sexually explicit contents, and a growing body of data reveals these phenomena are increasingly common for young people worldwide (Flood, 2007; Lo & Wei, 2005; Wolak). Researcher who have studied the influence of pornography, have examined a wide range of ages. Studies have examined the impact of pornography on individuals as young as 10 (Ybarra & Mitchell, 2005) and as old as 22 (Braun-Courville & Rojas, 2009).

Olusesan, Esther, Wasiu, Akin ((2014) submitted that today, Nigerian youths seem to be largest patrons of Internet porn, apart from America. Besides viewing porn materials, you now see explicit sexual materials on mobile phones which come in pictures and videos. A visit to some cybercafés in urban or suburbs in Nigeria will give credence to the above viewpoint. At cybercafés in Nigeria, particularly at nights, young adults aged between 15 and 25 years are usually seen downloading naked pictures of ladies and videos, while tagging their friends on various social media like Instagram, ado and Facebook. At other times, they share the weblink with their friends on various social media gateways. Personally, we (the researchers) have been linked to some sites, only to open the link and discover that they are porn sites. In all of these, some of these sites permit users to register and upload their own personal porn materials. Moreover, some youths are exposed to these sites unknowingly by either searching the web for information through redirection. Some are tagged on Facebook, twitter and YouTube, hence Internet activities can be said to greatly promote pornography.

2.2.1 Concept of Economics in Nigeria Secondary Schools

The word ‘Economics’ has some broad meanings, according to Robinson, it is the social science which study human behavior with the relationship between the ends and the scarce means which has alternative uses. Economics is a process of recording, classifying, selecting, measuring, interpreting, summarizing and analyzing data for decision making. There is basic fundamental which guide the economist in recording, appreciating and assessing information as well as the preparation and interpretation of data. The economics information system is proven, time honored and its formal is universally understood. According to Federal Republic of Nigeria (2004), stated that the broad goal of secondary school education is to prepare individual for useful living within the society and higher education. The curriculum designed for senior secondary school as one of the six years’ duration, is given in the

two stages, comprehensive and broad based aimed at broadening student's knowledge and outlook (Chima,2017). Economics was first taken in the West African School Certificate Examination as a school subject in Nigeria in 1967. Since school certificate was a two-year course, it may be said that economics came into the secondary school curriculum in Nigeria in 1966, much later than most other secondary school subjects. Economics was, however, taken by private candidates in the General Certificate Examination before it became a secondary school subject. It was recognized that economics problems were at the heart of modern society. Ever since economics was first taken as a school subject in West African School Certificate Examination in 1967, the number of schools that teach it, and the number of candidates that take the examination have witnessed a phenomenal increase (Noun, 2006). Chime (2017) observed that subjects offered in the senior secondary schools are three groups; core- subject, vocational and non-vocational subjects, one of the vocational subjects is economics. According to WAEC (2005) the objectives of the studying economics at senior secondary school are as follows:

- To enable senior secondary school student to appreciate the basic rule functions and principles of economics.
- To lay proper foundation for further study of economics and allied courses at higher level.
- To enable the students, understand basic fundamentals and their application to modern business activities.

Economics is one of important subjects thought in schools. The imperative nature of this subject stands tall not only in our daily life but the need to underscore the economic state of our nation; therefore, teaching and learning economics is encountered with challenges. The problems most faced by teachers teaching economics in Nigerian secondary schools include:

- i. Poor academic performance
- ii. The program has been haphazardly implemented and treated with levity.
- iii. Lack of adequate instructional materials
- iv. Poor and ineffective teaching method

Ogunu (2000) submitted that poor academic performance has been identified as a problem in Nigeria secondary school public examination (WAEC, 2005). Analysis of percentage performance of candidates in twenty popular subject in west African secondary school's' certificate examination from 2003, 2004 and 2005 revealed that 52-point 40 percent, 58.38 percent and 51.21 percent fail (Cashin, 1990). Internet has

been identified as one of the major causes of students' failure in examination because of the social network.

2.3 Problem of the Research

One of the major problems facing education sector in Nigeria is the low level of the performance of secondary school students in both local and standardized examinations. It has become a great concern for researchers, educators and all education stake-holders over the years. It was observed that students usually fail in examinations owing to many factors distracting their attention. Many social scientists that have carried out study of mass media particularly films effects have been involved in the effects to find out the relationship between media and anti-social behaviors like crime, rape, violence, abuse and sexual pervasion. In Nigeria there has been series of researches and counter researches which shows that mass media can have negative influence on students. Therefore, this research is geared toward finding out the influences of pornography on the academic performance Economics students in senior secondary schools in FCT, Nigeria.

2.3.1 Objectives of The Study

This study is aimed at the following

1. to find out the perception about pornography among students in Nigerian educational institutions
2. to find out the sources of pornography materials among students in Nigerian educational institutions
3. to find out the influence of Pornography on the academic performance of students
4. to find out the consequence pornographic on students in FCT
5. to proffer useful suggestion and recommendations in this area of study.

2.3.2 Research Question

1. What is the perception of students concerning pornography?
2. Where are the students sourcing pornography materials from?
3. What are the influences of pornographic on the academic performance of senior secondary School students in FCT?
4. What are the consequences watching pornographic firms on Nigerian students?

2.4 Research Methodology

In conducting this study, the researcher adopted survey research design.

2.4.1 Population and Sample

The population consisted of both gender without any form of bias and all the students in Senior secondary school from SS1 to SS3 Economics classes makes up the population of this research work in the six selected senior secondary schools in Gwagwalada. Thus the total population consists of 600 in six selected senior secondary schools in Gwagwalada area council of FCT, Nigeria. The sample for this study is made up of 180 students which were equally drawn from the total population of 600 students, 100 economics students each from each senior secondary school sampled in the area council.

2.4.2 Sampling Techniques

For the purpose of this study the researchers adopted the proportionate stratified sampling technique for the stratum/classes which have unequal sizes.

2.4.3 Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used to generate data for this study was the questionnaire method which is tagged as questionnaire on influences of pornography on the academic performance Economics students (QIPAPES).

2.5 Analysis of Findings

From the data collected, the analysis was based on 2 sections, namely section 1 depicting biodata of respondents/students and section 2 contains the research questions or items requiring responses. The bio-data were duly analyzed including research questions using the simple percentage method.

Research 1: Is watching pornography films and video is good for students?

Table 1:

S/N	ITEM	YES	%	NO	%	TOTAL
1	Watching pornography films and video is good for students	179	29.8	421	70.2	600

From the table above, 70.2% (421) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography films and video is not good for students while 29.8% (179) of the respondents said it is good to watch pornography films and video.

Research 2: What are the sources of Pornography materials?

Table 2:

S/N	SOURCES	FREQUENCY	%
1	Internet	242	40.33
2	Home Movie	141	35.5

3	Print Media	135	22.5
4	Television	67	11.16
5	Radio	15	2.5
TOTAL		600	100

The table showed that 40.33% (242) respondents source pornography materials from the internet, 35.5% (141) of respondent's source pornography materials from the Home Movie, 22.5% (135) respondent's source pornography materials from the print media, 11.16% (67) respondent's source pornography materials from the television while 2.5% (15) respondents source pornography materials from the radio.

Research 3: Is pornography influences the academic performance of students?

Table 3:

S/N	ITEM	YES	%	NO	%	TOTAL
1	Pornography influences the academic performance of students	456	76	144	24	600

From the table, it is revealed that 76% (456) of the respondents agreed that pornography influences the academic performance of students while 24% (144) of the respondents agreed that pornography do not influences the academic performance of student.

Research 4: Can watching pornography can lead to the following...?

Table 4:

S/N	Can watching pornography can lead to the following?	FREQUENCY	%
1	Sexual pervasion/abuse	211	35.16
2	Pregnancy	133	22.16
3	HIV/AIDS	104	17.33
4	Lack of focus in life	81	13.5
5	Rape	49	8.16
6	Incent among children	22	3.66
Total	600		

From the table, it is revealed that 35.16% (211) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead to sexual pervasion/abuse, 22.16% (133) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead to unwanted pregnant, 17.33% (104) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead to HIV/AIDS, 13.5% (81) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can

lead to lack of career focus in life, 8.16% (49) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead rape while 3.66% (22) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead incent among children.

2.6 Discussion of Finding

Result collected from research question one showed that 70.2% (421) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography films and video is not good for students while 29.8% (179) of the respondents said it is good to watch pornography films and video. This result is in line with that

Shittu and Ruth. (2019) discovered in their study that most students disagree to the items that pornography is good among students and should be encouraged, while majority of the students agree that, pornography materials are bad for students consumption and usage majority also disagree to the statement that, pornography is modernization and should be left unchecked. This explains that perception of the respondents towards pornography is seen as a bad content that should be checked.

Result collected from research question two revealed that 40.33% (242) respondents source pornography materials from the internet, 35.5% (141) of respondents source pornography materials from the Home Movie, 22.5% (135) respondents source pornography materials from the print media, 11.16% (67) respondents source pornography materials from the television while 2.5% (15) respondents source pornography materials from the radio. This finding agreed with the findings of Fisher, Hill, Grube, Gruber (2004) and Rich (2011) several studies have shown clearly that sexual content is prevalent on television. Davis, Mares (1998) and Kunkel, Cope, Biely (1999) The Internet has also been said to make sexually explicit materials more accessible to youth than ever before. Kanuga, Rosenfeld (2004) approximately 17% of respondents also considered home videos to be a source of sexually explicit materials, and a little more than that felt that these also affect sexual behavior.

Research question three revealed 76% (456) of the respondents agreed that pornography influences the academic performance of students while 24% (144) of the respondents agreed that pornography do not influences the academic performance of student. This result is in agreement with Shittu and Ruth. (2019) who found out that most student disagree to the item that students exposed to pornography perform better in academics since they had 47.7%, while majority of the students agreed that, pornographic materials makes students procrastinate their academic task with 37.3% and most times they fail to do it sometimes. In the same vein, most students agreed to the statement that, students who are not exposed to pornography perform better in academics with 35.5%. This further explains why exposure to pornography is another

reason for students' poor performance in social studies generally. Young, (1998) and Shine, (2004) also supported the finding when they observed that in media literature, concerns have been expressed about the academic performance of young people who spend a lot of time with certain media. Media use, especially in large amounts, has been suggested to decrease the time that needs to be spent with school work or the time that could be spent with cognitively stimulating activities; media is thus expected to elicit a time displacement that leads to lower academic achievement.

Result from research question four revealed that that 35.16% (211) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead to sexual pervasion/abuse, 22.16% (133) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead to unwanted pregnant, 17.33% (104) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead to HIV/AIDS, 13.5% (81) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead to lack of career focus in life, 8.16% (49) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead rape while 3.66% (22) of the respondents agreed that watching pornography can lead incent among children. This finding is in line with the finding of Olsson, Esther, Wausau, Akin (2016) who discovered that most of the respondents (n=371, 92.8%) felt that mass media/the Internet had an effect on their sexual behavior, with 198 (49.5%) of them agreeing it had both positive and negative effects. Bivariate analysis of the outcome variables showed significant association between being sexually active and the respondents' age ($P=0.001$), sex ($P=0.004$), marital status ($P=0.01$), time spent daily watching television ($P=0.03$), frequency of Internet use ($P=0.0003$), and frequency of accessing sexually explicit materials on the Internet ($P=0.001$).

2.7 Conclusion

At the end of the research, the research concluded that

- Watching pornography films and video is not good for Economics students because it can make the students to fail
- That majority of secondary school Economics students source the pornography materials on the internet and social media
 - Pornography influences the academic performance of economics students and makes them perform poorly in both internal and external exams.
- Watching of pornography can lead to unwanted pregnant, HIV/AIDS, lack of career focus in life, rape and incent among students.

2.8 Recommendation

The government should place restrictions on sexual content in electronic media should be placed.

Parental Advisory on explicit media content should be adhered to. Parents should monitor their children and make them to understand better the effects of these electronic media contents on them which would help them make better choices when deciding to allow children have access to various forms of media.

Teachers: the teachers have a direct contact with the students and they are the best to monitor the student and help them improve when the students are the class.

The administrators: may gain from this study better insight into ways to help improve student sexual and academic behavior. This could be achieved through better policies put in place to help the students concentrate better in class which will reflect in their performance level.

Students: An awareness forum should be created for students to have a better understanding of the effects of social media on their lives, and this could help guide their perception, attitude etc. of sexuality.



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