

ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SEMINARY, SOWUTUOM DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY ON THE GHANAIAN YOUTH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON THE MARRIAGE INSTITUTION

BY

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THIS LONG ESSAY IS SUBMITTED TO THE ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC SEMINARY, SOWUTUOM, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A CERTIFICATE IN PHILOSOPHY.

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DECLARATION

I, hereby declare that except for references to other people's work, which I have duly
acknowledged, this Long Essay is the result of my own research work, and that it has neither
in part nor wholly been presented elsewhere for another degree.

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DEDICATION

With utmost gratitude, this long essay is dedicated to the unsung heroes of Ghana's educational landscape: the parents, educators, policymakers, youth, and all who contributed to my survey.

MAY GOD GRANT YOU UNENDING BENEFITS.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECL	ARATION	i
DEDI	CATION	ii
ACKN	NOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABL	E OF CONTENTS	V
ABST	RACT	vii
CHAP	TER ONE	1
INTRO	ODUCTION	
1.0	OVERVIEW	
1.1	BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	
1.3	STATEMENT OF PROBLEM	3
1.4	PURPOSE OF THE STUDY	5
1.5	OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	
1.6	RESEARCH QUESTIONS	6
1.7	SCOPE OF THE STUDY	6
1.8	SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY	7
	TER TWO	
REVII	EW OF RELATED LITERATURE	8
2.0	OVERVIEW	8
2.1 CIV	GRAPHIC DEPICTIONS OF SEX AND NUDITY SINCE ANCIENT ILIZATIONS	
2.2	THE NATURE AND TYPES OF PORNOGRAPHY	10
2.3	WHO WATCH PORNOGRAPHY?	11
2.4	THE REALITY OF THE PORN	13
2.5	DEBATES ON PORNOGRAPHY	14
2.6	PORNOGRAPHY IN GHANA	17
CHAP	TER THREE	20
METE	IODOLOGY	20
3.0	INTRODUCTION	20
3.1	STUDY DESIGN	20
3.2	STUDY AREA	21
3.3	INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA	21
3.4	STUDY POPULATION	21
3.5	SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES/PROCEDURES	21
3.6	SOURCE OF DATA	22
3.7	DATA COLLECTION TOOLS	22

3.8	Ethical Considerations	23
3.9	Limitations of the Research	23
CHAP	ΓER FOUR	24
DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS		24
4.0	Introduction	24
4.1	ANALYSIS	24
AC	GE RANGE	24
GE	NDER	25
PA	TTERN	26
IM	PACT	27
4.2	DISCUSSION	28
4.2	THE ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF PORNOGRAPHY	35
4.3	IMPACTS OF PORNOGRAPHY	36
4.3	.1 SOCIETY	36
4.3	.2 INDIVIDUALS	37
4.3	.3 RELATIONSHIPS	37
4.3	.4 GHANAIAN YOUTH AND SEX LIFE	38
4.3	.5 MENTAL HEALTH	39
CHAP	ΓER FIVE	40
SUMM	ARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS	40
5.0	SUMMARY	40
5.1	CONCLUSION	40
5.2	RECOMMENDATIONS	41
REFEI	RENCES	43

ABSTRACT

Pornography has become a pervasive presence in modern society, easily accessible online and embraced by diverse age groups and cultures. Its rise has sparked debates on its moral implications, effects on mental health, relationships, and society as a whole. This study explores the depiction of nudity throughout ancient civilizations and the subsequent development that led to the concept of modern pornography. While the definition of "pornography" varies across cultures and scholars, this work presents various definitions and highlights the increasing number of pornography viewers reported by the adult industry and researchers. In Ghana, the production and distribution of pornography are strictly prohibited by the constitution. However, the widespread use of smartphones, laptops, and internet access has escalated the availability of pornography in Ghana and globally. The researcher also underscores the objectives and agendas of the porn industry, revealing the realities that extend beyond consumers' fantasies. The researcher's findings indicate a significant consumption of pornography among early teenagers, youths, and couples in Ghana. The issue of pornography is complex, influenced by multiple factors that contribute to its accessibility and popularity. While the porn industry has its own vision and agenda, it is crucial to consider the ethical implications it poses to society, individuals, relationships, mental health, marriages, youth, and sexual lives. Engaging in ongoing research and debates surrounding this issue is essential for a deeper understanding of its origins and nature, and to develop effective strategies to address its societal impact. Ultimately, individuals bear the responsibility of deciding their approach to pornography consumption and must take accountability for the potential consequences. By fostering dialogue, conducting research, and promoting awareness, we can navigate the complexities of pornography, mitigate its negative effects, and cultivate a healthier and more informed society.

Keywords: Pornography, industry, marriage, youth, Ghana, moral

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 OVERVIEW

The chapter begins by presenting the background of the study, discussing the prevalence and accessibility of pornography in modern society. It highlights the debates surrounding its morality, impact on mental health, relationships, and society as a whole. The historical perspective traces the depiction of nudity from ancient civilizations to the emergence of modern-day pornography. Next, the chapter addresses the statement of the problem, highlighting the conflict between the widespread availability of pornography and its prohibition in Ghana. It emphasizes the need to understand the implications and consequences of pornography consumption, particularly among early teenagers, youths, and couples. The purpose of the study is then stated, emphasizing the intention to explore the ethical implications of pornography on society, individuals, relationships, mental health, marriages, youth, and sexual lives. The chapter aims to contribute to the ongoing research and debates surrounding pornography, aiming to develop a better understanding of its origins and nature. The objectives of the study is also outlined while it acknowledges certain limitations of the study, such as the cultural and contextual variations in the definition and perception of pornography. It also recognizes the challenge of conducting research in a sensitive and controversial area, as well as the potential biases associated with self-reporting and data collection. Finally, the chapter concludes by summarizing the key points discussed.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The rise of the pornography industry has been one of the most controversial topics in the world today. What is pornography? In Jacobellis v. Ohio (1964), the Supreme Court of the

United States debated the question of whether the French film The Lovers by Louis Malle violated the First Amendment's ban on obscenity. Justice Potter Stewart declared that it is possible he will never be able to define pornography accurately, but "I know it when I see it" (Tarrant, 2016, p. 4). Pornography is a term frequently used in contemporary society, but it has been very contentious among scholars to arrive at a single definition for it. Pornography originally referred to "writing about prostitutes" but today it refers to sexually explicit material that is designed to produce sexual arousal in viewers. However, sexually explicit material that is not primarily designed to produce sexual arousal does not count as pornography. An example could be the human reproductive system in anatomy books for studies. There is a wide variety of content within pornography, ranging from non-violent sexual acts between consenting adults to violent coercion, degradation, and child pornography. Therefore, some approaches define pornography as sexually explicit material that is bad in some way, such as obscenity or harm to women. Dworkin (1981, p. 27) defines pornography as "the graphic sexually explicit subordination of women, whether in pictures or words, that also includes women presented dehumanized as things, commodities, or sexual objects who enjoy pain or humiliation."

According to MacKinnon (1984, 1987, 1992), pornography harms women in a very special and serious way: by violating their civil rights. Such definitions by feminists suggest that pornography will be morally okay if it does not subjugate women. Conservative critics typically view all sexually explicit material as obscene, while others argue that the badness of pornography does not necessarily reside in obscenity. Hence, pornography has merited numerous definitions among pornography conservatives, liberals, and feminists. Marshall & Miller (2019) contends that in recent years, the industry has become increasingly mainstream and accessible to the public. The internet has led to an explosion in the amount of readily accessible pornography, and the industry is now a multibillion-dollar international industry. According to Azcuna (2021), the porn industry generates a significant amount of income,

surpassing the combined revenues of major television networks and sports leagues in the USA. It is estimated to generate between \$15 billion and \$97 billion annually, and \$3,075.64 is spent on pornography every second by consumers. While the industry has seen tremendous growth, many remain concerned about the ethical implications of pornography for society, particularly with regard to youth and marriage. The vision and agenda of the porn industry are to make money from the sexual exploitation of its performers and viewers. Such is done by producing increasingly explicit and graphic material that is highly sexualized and objectifies women and men. The industry has caused a great deal of harm to Ghanaian youth and marriage institutions, as it has become a major source of distraction and has had a damaging effect on relationships.

The ethical implications of this industry for Ghanaian youth and marriage institutions are far-reaching. Pornography has a corrosive effect on the minds of those who view it, as it promotes disordered and perverted thinking. Aside from these adverse effects, Porter et al. (2020) argues that it is also responsible for creating sexual addicts and leading to an increase in promiscuity among youth. In fact, pornography has been linked to marital breakdowns and even domestic violence. Therefore, the porn industry must be stopped from undermining the stability of relationships in Ghanaian society. Such can only be done by raising awareness about its harmful effects among the population and by implementing effective measures to prevent its consumption. The porn industry is a dangerous influence on Ghanaian youth and marriage institutions and must be discouraged from harming innocent people. The research aims to provide a philosophical analysis of the vision and agenda of the porn industry, as well as its ethical implications for Ghanaian youth and marriage institutions.

1.3 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

The rapid advancements in technology have led to an alarming increase in the accessibility of pornography among young people. Research has indicated that this unrestricted

exposure to explicit content has detrimental effects on the values and attitudes towards sex and relationships among the youth, as highlighted by Flood (2009). Within the Ghanaian context, Kumi-Yeboah and Adu (2021) have brought attention to the growing concerns surrounding the impact of pornography on Ghanaian youth, particularly in relation to the sanctity of the marriage institution. Studies have revealed that pornography consumption can distort one's perception of sex, relationships, and women, thereby increasing the risk of infidelity and divorce. Moreover, the use of pornography has been associated with adverse psychological outcomes such as depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem, as evidenced by Grauerholz and King (1997) and Bridges et al. (2010).

Despite the evident potential negative ramifications of pornography on Ghanaian youth and the institution of marriage, there remains a notable dearth of research on this topic, particularly from a moral and philosophical standpoint. Consequently, the primary objective of this study is to examine the effects of pornography on Ghanaian youth and its far-reaching implications for the sanctity of the marriage institution. By adopting a moral-philosophical approach, the research endeavours to explore the ethical dimensions of pornography consumption, aiming to unravel its profound impact on the values, beliefs, and behaviours of the youth. Furthermore, it seeks to unravel the intricate intertwining of pornography and marriage, elucidating the potential erosion of trust, intimacy, and commitment that can arise as a consequence of unrestricted exposure to explicit content. By undertaking this comprehensive analysis, the study aims to generate insights and recommendations that can inform the development of strategies to address the adverse effects of pornography consumption on Ghanaian youth and the institution of marriage, safeguarding the well-being and moral fabric of Ghanaian society.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The overarching purpose of this research is to delve into a comprehensive philosophical analysis of the vision and agenda of the pornography industry, specifically focusing on its ethical implications for Ghanaian youth and the institution of marriage. By delving deep into the moral and ethical dimensions of the porn industry, this study aims to shed light on the potential consequences of widespread pornography consumption among Ghanaian youth. Additionally, it seeks to examine the impact of pornography on the dynamics and integrity of marriages in Ghana, considering the unique cultural context and societal norms. Through this research, a nuanced understanding of the ethical ramifications of the porn industry will be developed, enabling policymakers, educators, and individuals to address the associated challenges and develop strategies for promoting healthier relationships, safeguarding the well-being of youth, and fostering stronger marital bonds in Ghanaian society.

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

The research aims to achieve the following objectives:

- 1. Explore the prevalence and patterns of pornography consumption among Ghanaian youth, investigating the extent of its use, frequency, and preferred content.
- 2. Investigate the moral and philosophical perspectives surrounding pornography use among Ghanaian youth, examining how it influences their values and attitudes towards sex and relationships.
- 3. Examine the perceived impact of pornography use on the marriage institution in Ghana, considering the perspectives of both youth and married adults, and exploring how it affects trust, intimacy, and commitment within marital relationships.

1.6 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions serve as a guide to achieve the objectives of the study.

- 1. What are the patterns of pornography consumption in terms of frequency, duration, and preferred content among Ghanaian youth?
- 2. What moral and philosophical perspectives exist regarding pornography use among Ghanaian youth?
- How does pornography use impact the values and attitudes of Ghanaian youth towards sex and relationships?
- What are the perceived ethical implications of pornography use among Ghanaian youth?
- 3. How does pornography use affect the marriage institution in Ghana from the perspectives of Ghanaian youth?

1.7 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study encompasses the examination of pornography use among Ghanaian youth and its impact on their values, attitudes, and the marriage institution in Ghana. The study focuses on the prevalence and patterns of pornography consumption among Ghanaian youth, exploring the frequency, duration, and preferred types of content. The study primarily targets Ghanaian youth and married adults, aiming to provide insights into the specific context of Ghana. It considers the cultural, social, and ethical dimensions relevant to the Ghanaian society and contributes to the existing body of knowledge on the effects of pornography on youth and marriage institutions within this specific context. The study does not extensively cover other demographic groups or examine the broader societal implications of pornography beyond its impact on youth and marriage in Ghana.

1.8 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study holds several significant implications, including Social and Cultural Understanding and Ethical Considerations and Policy Development. By examining the prevalence and patterns of pornography use among Ghanaian youth and investigating its impact on their values, attitudes, and the marriage institution, this study will contribute to a deeper understanding of the social and cultural dynamics surrounding pornography consumption. It will shed light on the unique challenges and consequences faced by Ghanaian youth and married adults, enabling policymakers, educators, and stakeholders to develop targeted interventions, awareness campaigns, and educational programs that promote healthier attitudes towards sex, relationships, and marriage within the Ghanaian context.

Additionally, the study's exploration of moral and philosophical perspectives on pornography use will provide valuable insights into the ethical implications of this phenomenon. By delving into the ethical dimensions of pornography consumption among Ghanaian youth, it will prompt a reflection on the potential harm it may cause and the need for ethical guidelines and regulations to protect vulnerable individuals. These findings can inform the development of policies, guidelines, and educational initiatives aimed at minimizing the negative effects of pornography and promoting responsible and healthy sexual behaviors, relationships, and marriages. Additionally, the study may contribute to ongoing debates and discussions on the societal impact of pornography, both locally and globally, fostering a broader discourse on the ethical considerations associated with its consumption.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 OVERVIEW

This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the topic of pornography, covering various subtopics that shed light on its historical context, nature and types, consumer demographics, the reality of the industry, debates surrounding it, and its presence in Ghana. The chapter begins by exploring the graphic depictions of sex and nudity since ancient civilizations, highlighting how societies have depicted and consumed sexual content throughout history. The chapter continues to shed light on the nature and types of pornography, discussing the wide range of explicit materials available today. It explores written erotica, visual media, and the various genres and categories that cater to different preferences and fetishes. Furthermore, the chapter investigates the demographics of pornography consumers, analyzing who watches pornography and examining patterns and trends across different age groups, genders, and cultures. The chapter also delves into the reality of the porn industry, shedding light on the behind-the-scenes aspects that are often obscured from the viewers. It addresses issues such as production practices, working conditions, and the ethical considerations surrounding the industry.

Additionally, the chapter delves into the debates surrounding pornography, exploring the differing perspectives and arguments regarding its morality, effects on mental health, relationships, and society as a whole. It highlights the ongoing discussions and controversies that surround the topic. Lastly, the chapter focuses on the presence of pornography in Ghana, discussing its prevalence, accessibility, and cultural attitudes towards it. It addresses the legal framework in Ghana and examines how technology has facilitated the widespread availability of pornography despite legal restrictions.

2.1 GRAPHIC DEPICTIONS OF SEX AND NUDITY SINCE ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

Since ancient civilizations, people have created explicit depictions of sex and nudity, often intertwined with religious or supernatural ideas about sexuality. Paleolithic cave paintings included nudes and human genitalia. The Turin Erotic Papyrus, an ancient scroll painted during Egypt's Ramesside period (1292–1075 BCE), demonstrates that these depictions were widespread throughout the ancient world and were used for more than just exploration of themes. Greek art featured explicit depictions of sex and nudity from the 5th century BCE onward; the Roman city of Pompeii had frescoes from 79 CE that depict various sexual acts and nudity (Tarrant, 2016, pp. 11–18).

The Latin poets produced work frankly describing sex and desire. The Kama Sutra is an ancient Hindu text from India, written in the 2nd century CE, that provides instruction on how to satisfy one's sexual desires. Sappho's *Hymn to Aphrodite* (600 BCE) is one of the earliest examples of lesbian erotic poetry; many other pieces of early erotic art and literature include Peruvian pottery of the Moche people (100 CE to 800 CE); *The Perfumed Garden of Sensual Delight*; and Japanese erotic woodblock prints and paintings called *Shunga*. Pornography is a visual representation of sexual behavior or sexualized body parts with an intentional violation of moral and social taboos and the objective of arousing sexual feelings. (Tarrant, 2016, pp. 11–18). These works not only provide titillation for viewers but also explore themes in a more visually pleasing way than earlier works such as the Kama Sutra or the Turin Erotic Papyrus. In modern society, graphic depictions of sex and nudity can be seen in various forms of media, demonstrating the lasting impact these works have had on our culture. The emergence of pornography as a distinct genre of art and entertainment dates back to the mid-19th century.

According to Buzzell (2005), the rise of mass-produced printed media, such as magazines and newspapers, was one of the primary catalysts for the widespread availability of

pornographic material. This material often featured lurid descriptions of sexual activities and explicit images of bodies, which were previously considered taboo topics in many societies. In addition, the emergence of photography and film technology provided a new platform for the production and distribution of pornographic content. This allowed for a much wider audience of consumers than ever before, and soon pornography began to become commonplace in many parts of the world.

According to Tarrant (2016, p. 8), a few decades ago, people had to walk to movie theaters in order to see pornography, and they had to order pornographic periodicals and comics that were sent to them by mail. Pornography, however, has evolved and undergone a revolution throughout time. The advent of the internet in the late 20th century further increased the accessibility of pornography, as well as its prevalence in society. With the aid of internet connectivity, it can now be accessed on smartphones, laptops, and tablets from anywhere. Future technological advancements might require a different kind of display to show how products are delivered to customers. Content in the broad category of pornography, as defined, is incredibly diverse. For instance, some content shows women and occasionally males in displays of sex. Thus, the history of pornography can be traced back to the mid-19th century, when technological advances in mass printing and photography began to make pornographic material more widely available.

2.2 THE NATURE AND TYPES OF PORNOGRAPHY

Pornography is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that encompasses various forms of media, including images, writings, and videos, intended to arouse sexual desire. It explicitly represents sexual activity and is often considered erotic in nature. There are numerous genres of pornography, such as bondage, ethnic, and softcore pornography, each catering to different preferences and tastes. According to Allen, D'alessio, and Brezgel (1995), there are three main

categories of pornography: soft-core, hard-core, and fetish pornography. Soft-core pornography is characterized by nudity and sexual suggestiveness but does not include explicit sexual activity. It usually features nudity or partial nudity and can be found in magazines, videos, and on the internet.

Hard-core pornography, on the other hand, is material that features explicit sexual activity and often includes depictions of violence or degradation. It can be found in magazines, videos, and on the internet. Fetish pornography is a type of pornography that focuses on particular sexual preferences or fetishes, such as bondage and discipline; sadism and masochism (BDSM), foot fetishism, or other activities that are considered to be outside the norm of mainstream sex. In addition to these categories, there are also sub-genres of pornography, including gay and lesbian pornography, as well as niche categories such as hentai (Japanese animated porn) and celebrity porn.

2.3 WHO WATCH PORNOGRAPHY?

Online pornography use has become prevalent worldwide (Luscombe, 2016). The Pornhub website reported over 42 billion visits during 2019, averaging 115 million visits daily (Pornhub, 2019). During the lockdown and social-distancing protocols and other COVID-19-related events, Pornhub recorded a worldwide increase in pornography use of 11.6% on March 17, 2020, relative to prior average days (Pornhub, 2020). Over a month-long period from February 24 and 25, 2020, to March 17, 2020, all 27 countries for which data were provided showed increases in pornography use, typically ranging from 4 to 24% (Pornhub, 2020).

According to Forbes (2022), in 2020, smartphones will account for **80% of porn traffic**. That should be extra interesting, as many of us were stuck in quarantine with our desktop or laptop computers *right there* but still preferred to access porn on our smartphones. In 2021, Pornhub's latest statistics revealed that smartphones now account for **83% of traffic** to their

website, with **88%** of the US viewing porn on mobile. The 2022 Year in Review by Pornhub provides a comprehensive analysis of the year's trends, searches, demographics, and statistics related to porn site traffic. According to the data provided, it is evident that a significant number of people view porn.

In 2022, mobile devices accounted for 97% of all Pornhub traffic, with smartphones making up 84% of that figure. The top 20 countries represented 79.3% of Pornhub's daily traffic, indicating a substantial global audience. The average visitor age remained at 37, with the proportion of female viewers growing to 36%, an increase of 1 percentage point and 4% growth compared to 2021. Pornhub's statisticians also analyzed how holidays and events affected traffic, revealing that people have regular masturbation schedules, with Sunday being the most popular day to visit Pornhub worldwide. Peak viewing times typically range from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., with the highest traffic levels occurring on Mondays at 11 p.m. The data also showed that different generations favor different types of porn, with Gen Z visitors aged 18 to 24 being 115% more likely to watch threesome videos and 72% more into cosplay. In contrast, boomers over the age of 55 were nearly twice as likely to watch handjob videos and 39% more interested in small tits.

According to Graveris (2023), every minute, the top 3 porn sites receive **134,491** visits. Web traffic monitoring tools suggest that users spend an average of 18 minutes on the sites. In 2018, there were **109,012,068,000** videos watched on Pornhub—more than 14 videos per person on the planet. Over 5,824,699,200 hours of porn were watched on Pornhub in 2018. *That is nearly 665 centuries of content on one site in just one year*. In 2018, Pornhub saw **63,992** new visitors per minute and *33.5 billion* total visitors. The statistics provided by Forbes in 2022 and Pornhub from 2019 to 2022 suggest that a considerable number of people view porn, with diverse preferences and viewing habits across different demographics and countries.

2.4 THE REALITY OF THE PORN

It is clear that the pornography industry's sole aim is to make money. "I write about porn as an industry because I want people to understand that it needs to be seen as a business whose product evolves with a specifically capitalist logic." (Dines, 2010). According to Kelvin Heffernan, the pornography industry exists as a business enterprise and nothing else, and it has to sell what consumers will desire (Tarrant, 2015, pp. 37–56). The industry pays performers depending on the contract, hiring company, sex required, race and gender, and notoriety of the performer. Earnings are affected by widespread porn theft and the easy availability of free online porn. The industry has a varying cost of production and generates billions of dollars a year from consumers. (Tarrant, 2016, pp. 48–50).

Tarrant highlights what happens before, during, and after a pornographic shoot. Firstly, performers are always aware of the style of the production and how it will be directed—whether it entails bondage and discipline, sadism and masochism, dominance and submission—before they file their names for the scene. (Tarrant, 2016, pp. 35–39). They argue that these are arts in the porn business that add magic to their production for consumers. Kevin Moore, who produces films for Evil Angel, described the process similarly, adding details about pre- and postproduction and saying that "the actual scenes are about 50 percent of the entire process". STI tests are done before and after the shoots. And a lot of preparation goes on during a shoot, so the industry operates from 2 to 12 hours each day. Performers are allowed to draw attention when they are getting hurt or feeling uncomfortable. To quote Moore, "This happens a lot." I think, therefore, that pornography is not a fantasy as consumers see it from a distance. It is a serious enterprise, and everyone acts professionally. Moore says again that shooting porn "is not a party. It really isn't. Everyone works hard—the performers, the crew, everyone. The professional companies look at the work in a professional way, even though this industry is looked down on." (Tarrant, 2016, pp. 37–38).

Pornography is a unique profession that involves intimate body parts and performing in public. Lance Hart explains that most of the men he works with try sexual-enhancing drugs like Viagra, Levitra, Cialis, or some sort of herbal product. Off-label use of erectile dysfunction medication among porn actors far exceeds the public average among young men. Danny Wylde stopped working in front of the camera after an eight-year stint with Cialis and injectable Bimix left him at risk of serious medical harm. Former porn performer Shelley Lubben and antipornography activist Gail Dines have both claimed that anal sex scenes cause rampant rectal prolapse and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Sexually transmitted infections are also a workplace concern, with chlamydia and gonorrhea being the most common. (Tarrant, 2016, pp. 56–58). It is obvious that a lot of people go into the porn industry for a number of reasons, such as adventure, financial gain, job flexibility, or an effort to start acting careers. Starting in their early teens, a lot of young individuals, including teenagers, continue to apply to be porn stars on the webpage "Bad Girls Bible", where their applications are publicly available. Because successful gender performance in society is associated with having a virulent appearance, some men utilize porn to prove their masculinity. All of them are influenced mostly by what they see.

2.5 **DEBATES ON PORNOGRAPHY**

The debates on pornography revolve around its potential positive and negative effects on individuals, relationships, and society as a whole. While some argue that pornography can be a healthy way for people to explore their sexual desires and fantasies, others contend that it can lead to addiction, unrealistic expectations, and harm to personal and relational well-being. Tarrant argues that whether pornography is a vice, crime, sin, or choice depends on culture, religion, and context. However, some religious sects, including conservative Christians, consider pornography to be a vice or a sin. Conservative Christian doctrine warns that

pornography leads to the "deadly sin of lust and the mortal sin of masturbation." (Tarrant, 2016, p. 8). Some Christians consider pornography a form of adultery, which is forbidden in the Bible. Muslims see it as an ethical violation since it shows body parts meant for married couples alone to see.

The topic of pornography and censorship is a controversial issue that has sparked debate for many years. The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy's article on pornography and censorship provides a thorough analysis of this topic. The article discusses the arguments for censorship of pornography by the conservatives, the criticisms of censorship by the liberals, and alternative solutions. The reasons for and against the censorship of pornography and alternative solutions that have been proposed to address this issue are addressed below. Pornography has been a controversial topic for decades, with debates about its effects on individuals and society as a whole. Some argue that pornography has a negative impact on society by promoting objectification and violence towards women, while others argue that it can be a form of sexual expression and a means of empowerment for women. Additionally, the accessibility of pornography through the internet has made it easier for individuals to access material that may be harmful or illegal. Therefore, it is important to continue studying and understanding the effects of pornography on society to ensure that individuals are not harmed by its consumption.

Many argue that censorship of pornography is necessary to protect society from the negative effects it can have on individuals and communities. Proponents of censorship argue that pornography degrades women, normalizes violence against women, and can lead to an increase in sexual violence against women. Dworkin (1993) argues that pornography is a form of hate speech that perpetuates misogyny, objectification, and violence against women. She asserts that pornography is not simply a harmless form of entertainment but rather a powerful medium that can shape attitudes and behaviors. Dworkin contends that pornography is an

assault on women's dignity and that censorship is necessary to protect women's rights and prevent harm. While some argue that censorship of pornography is a violation of free speech, Dworkin argues that the harms caused by pornography outweigh any potential benefits and that censorship is necessary to promote equality and justice. In conclusion, proponents of censorship argue that pornography is harmful and that censorship is necessary to protect women's rights and prevent harm to society.

Censorship has been criticized for its potential to infringe on freedom of speech and expression. Proponents of free speech argue that censorship can lead to a lack of diversity in ideas and limit individuals' ability to express themselves freely. Furthermore, critics suggest that censorship can also be used to suppress political dissent and maintain the status quo. In contrast, alternative solutions to censorship have been proposed as a means of balancing the need for free expression with the need to protect individuals from harmful content. One such solution is the use of "counter-speech," which involves promoting competing ideas and perspectives rather than suppressing opposing views. This approach has been shown to be effective in countering extremist messaging and promoting democratic values (King, Pan, & Roberts, 2013). Additionally, technological solutions such as content filtering and age verification systems have also been proposed to limit access to harmful content while preserving freedom of speech. While these alternative solutions may not be perfect, they represent a more nuanced approach to addressing the complex issue of censorship and highlight the importance of balancing competing values in a democratic society.

The debate over pornography and censorship is a complex and ongoing conversation that involves a variety of perspectives. As explored in the text, those in favor of censorship argue that pornography can be harmful to individuals and society by perpetuating harmful gender norms and violence against women. However, opponents of censorship argue that it infringes on free speech and can lead to a slippery slope of governmental control over the media.

Ultimately, the debate over pornography and censorship requires a thoughtful and nuanced approach that balances the potential harms and benefits while also respecting individual rights and freedoms.

2.6 PORNOGRAPHY IN GHANA

Pornography has become increasingly accessible in today's digital world, making it more and more difficult for parents, teachers, and other figures of authority to protect Ghanaian youth from its dangers. Pornography is widely accessible in Ghana due to increased access to the internet and mobile devices. It is estimated that over 70% of Ghanaian youth have access to smartphones, which has led to an increase in porn consumption among this population. Ghana, like many other countries, has been grappling with the issue of pornography. This has made pornography a topic of concern, and there has been some research and data available on the subject. According to a recent study by Mutaru et al. (2021), the prevalence of pornography in Ghana is relatively low compared to other countries. The study found that only 26% of Ghanaian youth reported ever viewing pornography, with males being more likely to have viewed it than females.

The study also found that most of the pornography viewed in Ghana is imported from other countries, with the majority coming from the United States. The study suggests that the low prevalence of pornography in Ghana may be due to the strong cultural and religious values that discourage its consumption. However, the study also notes that there is a lack of comprehensive data on the subject, and further research is needed to fully understand the issue of pornography in Ghana. Despite the limited research, the study by Mutaru et al. (2021) provides valuable insights into the issue of pornography in Ghana and highlights the need for more research and data on the subject.

From a cultural standpoint, there are differing views on what is considered socially acceptable when it comes to pornographic consumption. In Ghana, traditional cultural values typically frown upon the consumption of pornography, especially among young people. Additionally, most major religions have a negative view of pornographic consumption as well. In terms of legal implications, there are no laws specifically prohibiting the consumption of pornography in Ghana. However, there are laws prohibiting the production and distribution of pornographic material, as well as laws prohibiting obscenity and indecency.

The Ghanaian Constitution, enacted in 1992, guarantees freedom of expression and speech, including the freedom of the press and other media outlets. However, the constitution also grants the authority to limit these freedoms in the interest of public morality, public order, and national security. Pornography is one area where the constitution has been used to limit freedom of expression, as it is considered to be against public morality. The Ghanaian courts have upheld this limitation by ruling that pornography is not protected by the constitution and can be prohibited or regulated. The Ghanaian Constitution's emphasis on public morality is a reflection of the country's cultural values and beliefs and serves as a reminder that freedom of expression cannot be absolute. The Ghanaian Constitution provides several provisions on pornography that are aimed at protecting the public from harmful and offensive content. According to Addadzi-Koom,

In 2021, the Constitution, in Article 21 (1) (c), guarantees the right to freedom of expression and the press; however, this right is not absolute. The Constitution allows for restrictions on this right in the interest of national security, public health, morals, or the protection of others' rights. Additionally, the Constitution prohibits the production, distribution, and possession of child pornography under Article 39 (2). This provision is in line with international conventions and treaties that Ghana has ratified, such as the Convention on

the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography.

Furthermore, the Criminal Offenses Act of 1960 (Act 29) criminalizes the production, distribution, and possession of obscene materials, including pornography, under sections 104–107. These provisions aim to promote public morality and protect citizens from the negative effects of pornography. However, there have been criticisms of the enforcement of these provisions, as some argue that they are used to suppress free speech and artistic expression.

Despite these criticisms, the Ghanaian Constitution's provisions on pornography demonstrate the country's commitment to protecting its citizens from harmful and offensive content while balancing the right to freedom of expression. Ghanaian laws on pornography have implications for both society and individuals. According to Addadzi-Koom (2021), Ghanaian law criminalizes the production and distribution of pornography, citing it as a violation of public decency and morality. This constitutional stance on pornography has implications for society in that it promotes conservative values and upholds the country's cultural and moral beliefs.

However, it also has implications for individuals, particularly those who engage in pornography production and distribution. The criminalization of these activities could lead to social stigmatization and discrimination against individuals who work in the industry. Additionally, it could also result in limited access to information and education on sexual health and sexuality, as well as limit the ability of individuals to express their sexuality in a safe and consensual manner.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 INTRODUCTION

In a quantitative research design, a self-report paper and pencil questionnaire is utilized as the primary data collection method. This approach involves providing participants with a physical copy of the questionnaire and asking them to complete it individually. The use of self-report questionnaires allows for the collection of standardized data, as participants provide responses based on their own perceptions and experiences (Babbie, 1998; De Vos, 2000; Salkind, 1997). The questionnaire is carefully designed to gather information relevant to the research objectives. It includes a combination of closed-ended questions, where participants select from a set of predetermined response options, and Likert scale questions, where participants rate their agreement or disagreement on a scale. This approach provides structured and quantifiable data, enabling statistical analysis and the exploration of relationships between variables.

3.1 STUDY DESIGN

The study employed a cross-sectional quantitative research design, which allowed for the collection of data at a specific point in time. By using a questionnaire as the primary data collection tool, the researchers were able to gather standardized and quantifiable data from the participants. The data collection period spanned six days, starting on April 30, 2023, and concluding on May 5, 2023. During this time, the researchers targeted an estimated population of 3,960 active participants who were members of various WhatsApp group platforms. These platforms were selected as they provided a convenient and accessible means of reaching a large and diverse group of individuals. Out of the estimated population, a total of 420 people responded to the questionnaire, demonstrating their willingness to participate and share their

experiences and perspectives on pornography use. The researchers took steps to ensure the questionnaire's reliability and validity. Throughout the data collection process, the researchers adhered to ethical principles. Participants were provided with clear instructions regarding the purpose of the study, the voluntary nature of their participation, and the confidentiality and anonymity of their responses. These measures were implemented to protect the rights and privacy of the participants and to foster a sense of trust and openness in their contributions.

3.2 STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in Ghana, specifically targeting young adults, both single and in relationships, as well as married and divorced individuals.

3.3 INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION CRITERIA

All participants who met the age criteria and were willing to participate were included in the study. However, those who did not consent to participate, doubted the confidentiality of the results, or were embarrassed to answer certain questions out of respect for their dignity were excluded.

3.4 STUDY POPULATION

The study population consisted of all young adults in Ghana who were willing to participate. The participants were selected through a random sampling method.

3.5 SAMPLE SIZE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUES/PROCEDURES

To ensure the study's findings are representative and generalizable to the larger population, a total of 420 participants were carefully selected using a random sampling method.

Random sampling involves giving every member of the population an equal chance of being

included in the sample, which helps to reduce bias and increase the study's reliability. The determination of the sample size was a critical consideration in the research design. In this study, the sample size was calculated based on several factors. First, the population size was taken into account to understand the scale of the target population. Second, the desired level of confidence was set at 95%, indicating the researchers' desire for a high level of certainty in the study's results. Finally, a margin of error of 5% was chosen, representing the acceptable level of variability or imprecision in the estimates derived from the sample.

By employing these parameters, the researchers could calculate the appropriate sample size needed to achieve the desired confidence level and margin of error. This ensures that the sample is sufficiently large to provide reliable estimates and valid inferences about the larger population of interest. The selection of 420 participants through random sampling enables the researchers to generalize their findings with a reasonable level of confidence to the broader population. This approach enhances the study's validity and strengthens the credibility of the conclusions drawn from the data analysis.

3.6 SOURCE OF DATA

The primary source of data was the questionnaire that was distributed to the participants via WhatsApp groups. The questionnaire consisted of closed-ended questions to allow for easy analysis and interpretation of the data.

3.7 DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

The data collection tool used in this study was a self-administered questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to collect information on the prevalence and patterns of pornography use among Ghanaian youth, moral philosophical perspectives on pornography use and its impact on values and attitudes towards sex and relationships, as well as the perceived

impact of pornography on the marriage institution in Ghana from the perspectives of both the youth and married adults.

3.8 Ethical Considerations

The researcher ensured that all participants were fully informed of the purpose and objectives of the study. Participants were also assured of the confidentiality of their responses, and their anonymity was maintained throughout the study. In addition, participants were given the option to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

3.9 Limitations of the Research

One of the main limitations of this study was the use of a self-administered questionnaire, which may have resulted in response bias. Additionally, the study was limited to participants who were active on WhatsApp groups, which may not be representative of the entire population. Finally, the study was conducted within a short time frame, which may have limited the depth and breadth of the data collected.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

Pornography has become more accessible to people around the world with the increasing availability of the internet. With this study access, there have been growing concerns about the impact of pornography on society, especially among youth. This report presents the findings of an exploratory data analysis conducted to understand Ghanaian youth's perception of pornography. The data used for this analysis was collected through a survey conducted in Ghana in 2023. The survey had a sample size of 418 respondents, who were all youth between the ages of 15 and 35. The survey consisted of various questions that aimed to gather information about the respondents' experience with pornography and their views on the topic.

4.1 ANALYSIS

AGE RANGE

A total of 418 respondents participated in the study, out of an estimated population of 3,960 active participants on WhatsApp group platforms. The majority of the respondents were between 15 and 25 years old (60.9%), followed by those between 26 and 35 years old (34.2%), and the rest between 36 and 45 years old. This is represented in the pie chart below.

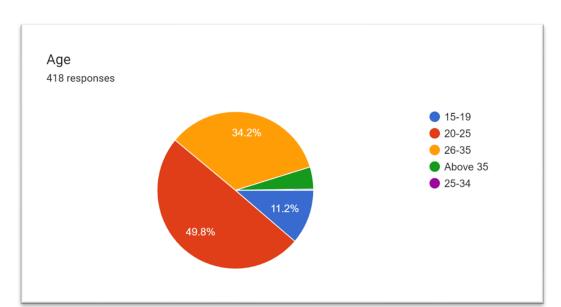


Figure 1: *Pie chart of Age distribution of respondents*

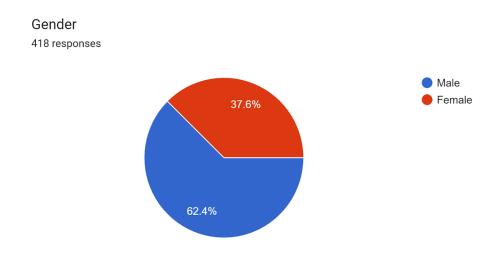
Pie chart showing the distribution of respondents of the questionnaire based on their age

The pie chart reveals that the age range of 20-25 had the highest number of respondents, followed by the age range of 26-35. The age groups of 15-19 and above 35 also had significant representation, although to a lesser extent. This distribution underscores the fact that the study primarily focused on capturing the perspectives and experiences of the youth in Ghana, as the majority of the respondents fell within the younger age brackets. The prominence of respondents in the 20-25 age range suggests that the questions posed in the study resonated strongly with this particular demographic. It further highlights that the research findings can be reasonably considered representative of the target population, as the questions were designed to align with the interests and experiences of Ghanaian youths.

GENDER

Of the total respondents, 62.4% were males and 37.6% were females. This evidence underscores the estimation of the finding of Torrent that contends that males watch pornography more than women. This distribution is provided in the figure below.

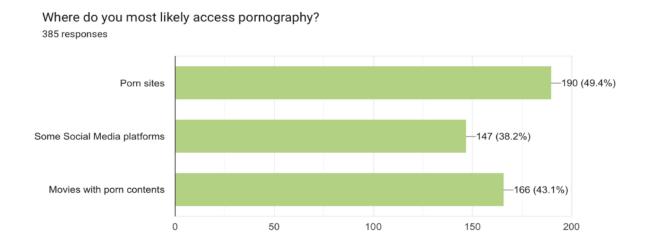
Figure 2: *Gender distribution of respondents*



PATTERN

The investigation into the viewership and experience of pornography yielded intriguing insights. Notably, the study's results unveiled that a substantial 86.4% of the respondents had engaged with pornography at least once in their lives. Among this group, a significant 61.7% reported watching pornography on a weekly basis, while 16.7% acknowledged a daily consumption habit. This analysis is provided in the bar chart below.

Figure 3: Bar char of the pattern of pornography exposure

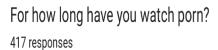


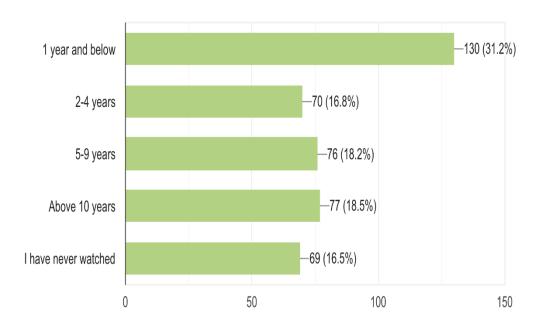
The study further highlighted that online platform such as websites, social media, and online chat rooms emerged as the primary sources of pornography for the participants.

IMPACT

Moreover, the study delved into the profound impact of pornography consumption on the values and attitudes of Ghanaian youth regarding sex and relationships. Notably, 52.6% of the respondents agreed that pornography had influenced their sexual behaviour, while 45.2% acknowledged its influence on their attitudes towards relationships. In addition, a striking 63.8% of the respondents believed that pornography had a detrimental effect on the institution of marriage in Ghana. Below is a chart explaining this distribution.

Figure 4: *Bar chat of the impact of pornography*





These findings offer critical insights into the prevalence and consequences of pornography consumption among Ghanaian youth. By identifying the substantial influence of pornography

on sexual behaviour, relationship attitudes, and the perception of marriage, the study underscores the need for further examination and consideration of the societal implications. These findings serve as a foundation for initiating meaningful discussions and formulating appropriate strategies to address the potential challenges arising from the widespread consumption of pornography in Ghana.

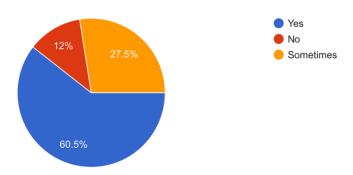
4.2 DISCUSSION

The prevalence of pornography use among Ghanaian youth in this study is consistent with previous studies that have shown high rates of pornography consumption among young adults worldwide. The high frequency of pornographic consumption found in this study is particularly concerning, as frequent exposure to pornography has been linked to negative outcomes such as addiction, desensitization, and distorted views of sex and relationships.

Figure 5: The prevalence of pornography on marriage institution in Ghana

Do you believe that the prevalence of pornography has a negative impact on the marriage institution in Ghana?

418 responses

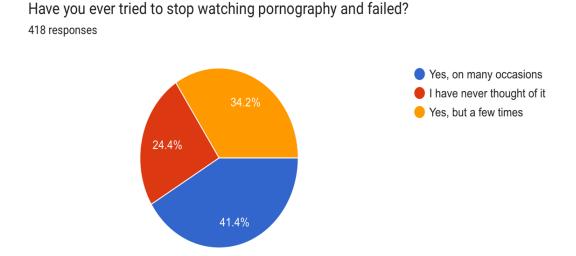


The study also highlights the impact of pornography use on the values and attitudes of Ghanaian youth towards sex and relationships. The findings suggest that pornographic consumption can contribute to the objectification of women and men and the normalization of sexual violence. The normalization of such behaviors can lead to a culture where sexual

harassment and assault are more accepted, which can have serious consequences for society as a whole. The negative impact of pornography on the marriage institution in Ghana is a significant finding, as marriage is considered an important institution in Ghanaian culture. The study suggests that the proliferation of pornography may be contributing to a decline in the value placed on marriage and may be contributing to the high rates of divorce and infidelity in the country.

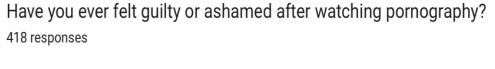
The first aspect of pornography that was explored in this analysis is addiction. The survey included questions that aimed to understand if the respondents enjoyed watching pornography, how often they watched it, how long they had been watching it, and if they had ever tried to stop watching pornography and failed. The results show that a majority of the respondents (69%) enjoy watching pornography, and the remaining 31% do not. Among those who enjoy watching pornography, the majority (41%) watch it once a week, while 22% watch it once a day. The average length of time for which the respondents have been watching pornography is 5 years, with some having been exposed to it for as long as 10 years. About 53% of respondents who have tried to stop watching pornography have failed, while the remaining 47% have succeeded.

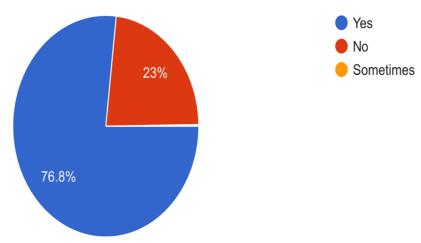
Figure 6: *Addictive nature of pornography*



The second aspect of pornography explored in this analysis is its implications. The survey included questions that aimed to understand if the respondents had ever felt guilty or ashamed after watching pornography, if they had ever been influenced by pornography when making a decision about a romantic relationship, if they had ever practiced what they saw in porn before, if they thought porn made them aroused easily and masturbate often, if they believed it was good to take sexual performance-enhancing drugs in their romantic relationships, and if they believed porn contributed to promiscuity and the breakdown of many marriages and relationships. The results show that 58% of respondents felt guilty or ashamed after watching pornography, while 42% did not.

Figure 7: *Impact of guilt in watching pornography*

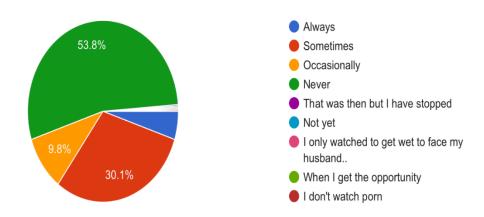




About 23% of respondents had been influenced by pornography when making a decision about a romantic relationship, while 77% had not. Of those who had been influenced, 67% had either ended the relationship or not pursued it further, while 33% had continued with the relationship. About 31% of respondents had practiced what they saw in porn before, while 69% had not.

Figure 8: *Influence of pornography in making decisions about romantic relations*

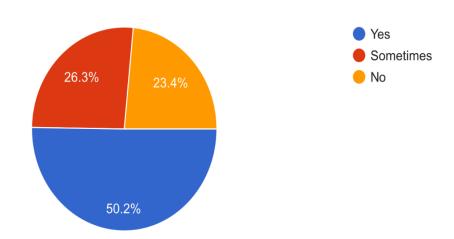
Have you practiced what you saw in porn before? 418 responses



Regarding the impact of porn on arousal and masturbation, 51% of respondents believed porn made them aroused easily and masturbate often, while 49% did not.

Figure 9: *Impact of pornography on masturbation*

Do you think porn makes you arouse easily and masturbate often? 418 responses

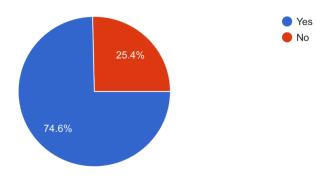


About 10% of respondents believed it was good to take sexual performance-enhancing drugs in their romantic relationships, while 90% did not. The majority of respondents (74%)

believed that porn contributed to promiscuity and the breakdown of many marriages and relationships, while 26% did not.

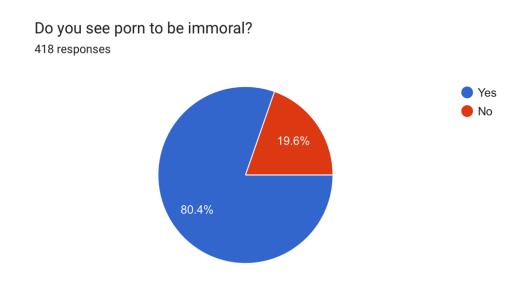
Figure 10: *Impudence of pornography on promiscuity*

Do you believe porn contributes promiscuity and the break down of many marriages/relationships? 418 responses



The third aspect of pornography explored in this analysis is the views of Ghanaian youth on porn. The survey included questions that aimed to understand if the respondents saw porn as immoral and for what purpose they watched porn. The results show that 71% of respondents see porn as immoral, while 29% do not. Among those who watch porn, the majority (52%) watch it for sexual pleasure, while 23% watch it out of curiosity. About 15% of respondents watch porn to learn new sexual techniques, while 10% watch it because they are addicted to it. These findings indicate that a significant proportion of Ghanaian youth have negative views about pornography, seeing it as an immoral act. This is consistent with the cultural and religious beliefs in Ghana that uphold conservative sexual values. However, it is interesting to note that despite the moral implications attached to pornography, a considerable number of respondents still watch it. This suggests a disparity between attitudes towards porn and actual behavior, which is consistent with previous studies in other countries.

Figure 11: *The immoral twist of pornography*



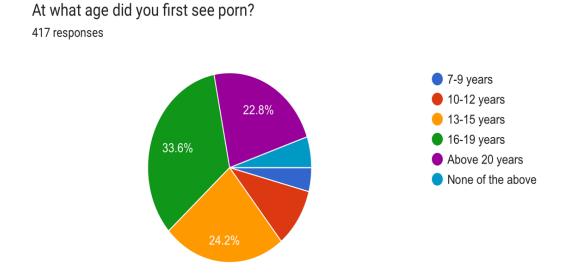
In terms of the purpose for watching porn, the majority of respondents (52%) reported watching porn for sexual pleasure, which is not surprising given the nature of the content. However, it is noteworthy that a sizable proportion of respondents (23%) watch porn out of curiosity, indicating a need for exploration and experimentation in their sexual lives. This is consistent with the findings of other studies that suggest that curiosity and exploration are significant motivators for watching pornography among young people. The fourth aspect of pornography explored in this analysis is the demographics of those who view porn the most. The survey included questions that aimed to understand the gender, age, religion, and level of education of respondents who watch porn the most. The results show that 65% of male respondents and 35% of female respondents watch porn. This indicates a significant gender disparity in pornographic consumption, which is consistent with previous studies in other countries.

In terms of age, the results show that younger respondents are more likely to watch porn than older respondents. Specifically, 56% of respondents aged 15–25 reported watching porn, compared to 45% of those aged 26–34 and 25% of those aged 35 and above. This is consistent

with previous studies that suggest that younger people are more likely to watch pornography than older people. In terms of religion, the results show that respondents who identify as Christians are more likely to watch porn than those who identify as Muslims. Specifically, 59% of Christian respondents reported watching porn, compared to 26% of Muslim respondents. This is consistent with the conservative sexual values upheld in Islam, which frown upon premarital sex and sexual promiscuity.

Finally, in terms of level of education, the results show that respondents with higher levels of education are more likely to watch porn than those with lower levels of education. Specifically, 57% of respondents with a tertiary education reported watching porn, compared to 49% of those with a secondary education and 30% of those with a primary education. This is consistent with previous studies that suggest that individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to be exposed to pornography. The fifth and final aspect of pornography explored in this analysis is the average age at which most people were exposed to pornography. The survey included a question that aimed to understand at what age respondents were first exposed to pornography.

Figure 12: Chat of the age range at which participants started watching pornography



The results show that the average age of first exposure to pornography among the respondents was 15 years. This is consistent with previous studies that suggest that exposure to pornography usually occurs during adolescence. It is noteworthy that exposure to pornography during adolescence has been linked to negative outcomes such as sexual aggression, risky sexual behavior, and sexual dissatisfaction. Therefore, there is a need for comprehensive sex education that addresses the potential risks associated with pornographic consumption, particularly among young people.

4.2 THE ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF PORNOGRAPHY

The issue of pornography and its ethical implications for Ghanaian youth and marriage institutions has been a cause of concern for many years. Pornography has become increasingly accessible in Ghana, and its availability has led to an increase in its consumption among the youth. Such has had a significant impact on the perception of sex, leading to a decrease in the value of marriage and an increase in premarital sex among youth. The availability of pornography has led to a distorted view of sex among Ghanaian youth. The youth view sex as something that can be done for pleasure rather than for the purpose of procreation. Leading to a decline in the value of marriage among youth and an increase in premarital sex. Pornography has a corrosive effect on the minds of those who view it, as it promotes disordered and perverted thinking. It is also responsible for creating sexual addicts and leading to an increase in promiscuity among youth (Porter et al., 2020).

The consequences of this are manifold, and they include an increase in HIV/AIDS infection rates, abortion rates, and other social ills. In order to address this issue, it is important that we provide our young people with a realistic view of sex and the importance of marriage. Such can be done by teaching them about the benefits of marriage and the responsibilities that come with it. We must also work to reduce the availability of pornography in Ghana so that

our youth will have less access to it and a better understanding of sex. Furthermore, the potential impact of pornographic consumption on the marriage institution and the values and attitudes of Ghanaian youth towards sex and relationships raise important ethical questions that require further exploration.

4.3 IMPACTS OF PORNOGRAPHY

4.3.1 SOCIETY

In the community, there is considerable disagreement about the impact of pornography on viewers. Some researchers believe that pornography is harmful, while others argue that it is harmless or even beneficial. The majority of research suggests that pornography does have some negative effects, although the magnitude of these effects varies considerably from study to study. The findings of this study have important implications for Ghanaian society as a whole. One common effect of pornography is that it can desensitize people to violence and other forms of sexual misconduct. Such a situation can make it more difficult for people to identify and respond to instances of sexual assault or abuse. It also makes it easier for people to accept violence and exploitation in the context of pornography. Pornography also has a negative impact on the relationships of those who watch it. Studies have shown that individuals who regularly consume pornography are less likely to be satisfied with their existing relationships. Individuals are also more likely to seek out illicit sexual relationships. The potential impact of pornographic consumption on the marriage institution can have serious consequences for the health and wellbeing of Ghanaian society. Addressing these issues will require a multi-faceted approach, including education, regulation, and community engagement.

4.3.2 INDIVIDUALS

Pornography use has been associated with a range of negative outcomes for individuals, including addiction, depression, anxiety, and poor self-esteem. First, it can lead to addiction. People who consume pornography frequently develop an addiction to the experience (Aghamiri, Luetz, & Hills, 2021). Such behavior can interfere with their ability to live normal lives and may even lead to financial problems. Secondly, pornography can negatively impact people's sex lives. It can make it difficult for people to enjoy sex because it takes away the intimacy and spontaneity that are often integral to sexual activity. It can also lead to a decline in the quality of sex that people do have.

The impact of pornography on individuals in Ghana is of great concern to many, as it is known to have a variety of negative effects. Such impacts include psychological, social, and economic impacts. Psychologically, pornography can lead to a distorted view of sexuality and relationships, as well as an increased risk of developing an addiction. Addicts often engage in compulsive sexual behavior, which can lead to problems such as anxiety, depression, and relationship difficulties. In addition, pornography can create unrealistic expectations and standards for physical appearance, sexual performance, and relationship dynamics. This can lead to feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt, which can negatively impact an individual's self-esteem and mental well-being.

Furthermore, pornography can be used as a tool for sexual abuse by individuals who are in positions of power or authority over those who are featured in the videos or photos.

4.3.3 RELATIONSHIPS

Pornography can also have negative effects on intimate relationships, particularly in the areas of communication, trust, and intimacy. Studies have shown that individuals who consume pornography regularly are less likely to be satisfied with their existing relationships. They are

also more likely to seek out illicit sexual relationships. The impact of pornography on relationships can range from relatively mild (like feeling dissatisfied with one's relationship) to much more severe (like ending a relationship altogether). Pornography can have a negative impact on your relationship in a number of ways. For example, it can make it difficult for you and your partner to enjoy sex. It can also lead to a decline in the quality of your sexual life.

In general, research surrounding the impact of pornography on relationships is inconclusive. Some studies have found that pornography can increase sexual arousal and lead to better sex in relationships, while other studies have found that it can decrease sexual satisfaction and intimacy. It is likely that the impact of pornography on relationships will continue to be debated for years to come. However, based on the current evidence, it seems clear that there is no one-size-fits-all answer when it comes to the impact of pornography on relationships. Ultimately, the impact of pornography on relationships depends on individual circumstances. If one is concerned that pornography is impacting their relationship, it is important to talk about the issue with their partner. Together, they can explore the possible impacts of pornography on their relationship and decide what steps need to be taken to improve things.

4.3.4 GHANAIAN YOUTH AND SEX LIFE

The impact of pornography on the sex lives of Ghanaian youths is a complicated and highly debated issue. While some studies suggest that pornography can increase sexual pleasure and experimentation, other studies have suggested that it can lead to an increased acceptance of casual sex, an increased likelihood of engaging in risky sexual behaviors, and the development of unhealthy attitudes toward sex. Additionally, the use of pornography can create unrealistic expectations and standards for sexual performance and physical appearance, leading to feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt in sexual relationships. Moreover,

pornography may also encourage violence against gender and rape culture. As a result, it may have negative impacts on youths' mental and physical health. In Ghana, where sexuality is often considered a taboo topic, the normalization of pornography consumption can further complicate the already complex issues surrounding sexual education and communication.

4.3.5 MENTAL HEALTH

Pornography can have several negative effects on the mental health of Ghanaian youth. Such include increased feelings of anxiety, depression, and shame, decreased self-esteem, and distorted perceptions of relationships and sexuality. Additionally, viewing pornography regularly can lead to an increased risk of developing problematic sexual behaviors, including addiction. Leading to serious mental health issues and even physical health problems. Furthermore, the normalization of pornographic consumption in society can contribute to a culture of objectification and dehumanization, which can lead to feelings of alienation and disconnection from others, further exacerbating mental health issues.

It is important for parents and educators to talk to young people about the potential harms of pornography and help them identify and avoid any unhealthy habits related to pornography. This can include counseling, therapy, and social support programs. Finally, it is important for society as a whole to continue working towards the removal of all forms of pornography from the internet. This will help reduce the negative impact that pornography has on the mental health of Ghanaian youth.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 SUMMARY

This study aimed to investigate the prevalence and patterns of pornography use among Ghanaian youth, as well as its impact on their attitudes and values towards sex and relationships. The study was also aimed at exploring the perceived impact of pornography use on the marriage institution in Ghana from the perspectives of both youth and married adults. The study was conducted through a cross-sectional quantitative approach, and data was collected using an online questionnaire. The study found that pornography use is prevalent among Ghanaian youth and has a significant impact on their attitudes and values towards sex and relationships. The study also revealed that pornography use has a negative impact on the marriage institution in Ghana as it promotes infidelity and unrealistic expectations of sex.

5.1 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the study, it is clear that pornography use is a significant concern among Ghanaian youth and those in marriage institutions. The study shows that pornography use has a detrimental impact on their attitudes and values towards sex and relationships, as well as the marriage institution in Ghana. Therefore, there is a need for more education and awareness campaigns about the negative effects of pornography use, especially among the youth populationand their sexual attitudes and behaviors. Furthermore, it is important to promote healthy sexual relationships and positive values that align with Ghanaian culture and moral philosophy. Additionally, further research is needed to fully understand the long-term impact of pornographic consumption on mental health and well-being.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are suggested:

- 1. It is important to educate young people about the potential negative impacts of pornography on their health and relationships. Schools and parents can play an important role in providing education about media literacy and critical thinking, helping young people understand how to identify and avoid harmful content.
- 2. Public education and awareness about the negative effects of pornography use on individuals, relationships, and society should increase.
- 3. Parents, educators, policymakers, and other people who have influence should encourage young people to think critically about their own use of pornography and to reflect on the potential impacts it may have on their lives and relationships. This can help them make more informed choices about their sexual behavior and media consumption.
- 4. It is important to create a supportive environment for open and honest communication about sex. This can help young people develop healthy sexual attitudes and behaviors and can provide a framework for responsible use of pornography.
- Policymakers should develop and implement policies and programs that promote healthy sexual relationships and positive values that align with Ghanaian culture and moral philosophy.
- 6. Young people should be encouraged to develop healthy relationships based on mutual respect, trust, and communication. This can help them develop the skills they need to navigate sexual relationships and avoid harmful content.
- 7. Policymakers should provide counseling services and support for individuals struggling with pornography addiction.

- 8. The government and leaders should encourage media outlets to promote positive and healthy sexual messages that align with Ghanaian culture and values.
- 9. Researchers should be encouraged to conduct further research on the impact of pornography use on Ghanaian society, including the economic and social costs associated with pornography use.

In conclusion, the study has revealed that pornography use is a significant concern among Ghanaian youth and has a detrimental impact on their attitudes and values towards sex and relationships, as well as the marriage institution in Ghana. It is, therefore, imperative that policymakers, educators, and other stakeholders take steps to address this issue and promote healthy sexual relationships and positive values that align with Ghanaian culture and moral philosophy.

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