

Perception of Pornography Impacts on Social Studies' Students in University of Jos, Nigeria

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Abstract. This study investigated into students' perception of pornography and its impacts on social studies students in University of Jos. The purpose of the study includes: investigating into social studies students' perception of pornography and examining the relationship between pornography and attitudes of students in social studies among others. The study was backed with four research questions and two hypotheses, the research design adopted for the study was survey research and the population was the entire social studies students in university of Jos having the total of 244 population size and from which 180 were randomly selected as sample of the study. The study revealed that, most students who are involved in pornographic activities do not do well in academics and most times even procrastinate on their works. It also shows that, students' perception of pornography varies from positive to negative and due to modernization to ideal situations among others. Some suggestions and further recommendations were made among which are: adequate funding of education so that all learning facilities and equipment will be made available to stimulate students' interest, parents should be mindful of their children's activities on cell phones and other social media when they are indoors, experts of social studies should be employed to ensure effective teaching and handling of the subject so that the proper content would be passed across to the learners among others.

Keywords: Pornography, social studies students, University of Jos and perception

Introduction

The Nigeria society is under heavy bombardment from the media with so much sexual materials and this has resulted to relative increase in our moral decadence as well as sexual crimes in the polity. Our society is now in a worrisome state and era of boom for sexual and social crimes such as rampant rape, sexual molestation, homosexuality and lesbianism to mention but a few which are in one way or the other associated in consistent exposure of the youths and students to pornographic materials. The 20th century was an era of triumph for pornography with explicit sexual contents enhanced by the impacts of technological development through production of sophisticated equipment up to the 21st century and the introduction of information communication technology (ICT) has further worsened the situation of exposure.

Perception of pornography varies from individuals to groups and to a society, just as values vary relatively in the real sense of it. In regards to this study pornography refers to visual materials (films or pictures) produced with the intention of stimulating sexual desire in persons. It is also viewed as the explicit depiction of a sexual subject matter especially, with the sole intention of sexually exciting the viewers

(encyclopedia 2008. in Goggle.com). This definition tends to concentrate on the conscious viewers and leaves out the unconscious viewers who are also victims of the impacts such explicit materials possess to them thus, the definition is shallow when properly analyzed.

According to Hornby (2002) however, pornography refers to books, videos etc that describes or show naked people and sexual acts in order to make people feel sexually exited especially in a way that many people find offensive. This definition focuses more on hardcore pornography since it emphasis was on blatant exhibition of sexual acts pornography is beyond that as it could take any form. It also comprises of soft genre which may not necessarily depicts naked images of people but have the pornography in form of text or sounds. Geddes & Grosset (2007) further added that, pornography involves writings, pictures, films etc intended primarily to arouse sexual desire it may be in any variety of media such as printed, literature, photo, sculpture, drawings, paintings, animation, sounds, recordings, films, video and video games. This definition is more holistic in the sense that, it recognizes the diverse nature of pornography as well as the various sources it may occur and in fact, the wide use of the social media often project these to a large extend.

Students generally and in particular Nigeria are not left out of pornographic activities whether directly or indirectly, due to the rapid growth of telecommunication in the country even though the involvement of students perception to see or feel about pornography also differs. According to Merriam Webster dictionary (2015) perception is the way you think about or understand someone or something or ability to understand or notice something easily. This definition describes perception in terms of understanding of a particular phenomenon or thing by an individual. This makes sense for explaining perception as it relates to the topic under study. Foley (2008), also views perception as a “process through which organisms interpret and organize sensation to produce a meaningful experience of the world”. Foley’s definition here is a kind of broad for the topic under study because the concern here is variables and not

sensation thus, the definition is not well delineated to suit the study as it talks about organisms and animals and even plants are living organisms therefore the question may be asked; how can this research ascertain the perception of this other organisms about a particular phenomena Moreover, understanding the level at which sexual sensation are expressed might be difficult to deduced or measure.

This suggests that, students would definitely hold different views towards pornography since perception is said to be relative to individuals, groups and societies. Some groups of students may perceive pornography as a good thing and should even be made available to everybody who desire to access such materials since it is pleasurable and also serve as essential sexual stimulant to viewers or consumers. Another group of students may perceive pornography as something condemnable, discomforting, and immoral and unworthy which is a bad activity to get associated with as well as a sin. Perhaps, the perception of students in this category may not be unrelated to their socio-cultural background and religious affiliation which condemns such act as well as the moral standard and training they have equally received.

Furthermore, the researchers may also have another category of students whose perception of pornography would be like modernization or civilization and to such students pornography would looked at as a welcome idea, a modern trend, and having this syndrome of “moving with the bandwagon” they would tend to see pornography as something worth doing due to their unlimited access to pornographic materials and social networks that are prone to pornography. In the same vein, Straus (2004) asserted that, the world has become a highly sexualized cultural environment and has steadily become widely used in our communities. This portrays that, students in the mainstream. Media has on social networks and the abundant sites available at their disposal explored it. Thus, it becomes pertinent to state that as students patronize different pornographic material and contents their perception of such material would likely not be uniform because it may relatively varies based on background, values, religion and

so forth. Pornographic viewing has been made afforded through advanced technology and this has further become a widespread social phenomenon globally and has also contributed to changing the terrain of sexuality in both positive and negative ways where students are at the forefront of this impact and this is likely to have impact on them both academically and in their attitude therefore, there is a dire need to properly, carefully, intensively, educate and enlighten the students about this phenomenon.

As Mandela dictum have it that “education is the only instrument or thing that can change anything” thus, educating the students becomes imperative as a panacea to the enormous problems associated to pornography and their involvement. This means, that educating the students through sex education and other viable programmes to give them in-depth understandings can be another way of curbing or eradicating the effects of pornography as well as cushion it amongst the students. In this regard, the subject of social studies is deemed appropriate, integrated and accommodative for such programmes like sex education so that it be properly handled and thus, inculcated into the students and others even though the concept of pornography also have its own shortcomings and challenges to different individuals.

Social studies as a school subject is a multidisciplinary field of study which equips the learner with necessary values, attitudes, skills and knowledge essential for their survival and solving of their day to day problems. According to Bozimo (2002) it is a specialized area of study that, deals with the study of man his environment and how they interact with each other. To the authors, in this context connotes social, cultural, political, physical and technological aspects of man. This definition portrays that, social studies deals with all aspect of human life. The youths of today requires an all-inclusive education which is contrary to the compartmentalized system of education being used today, to enable them spot out their potentials and develop such in the right path as well as match their psychological, Intellectual and physical development. This type of education is the concern of social studies education, it is a lifelong process, and dynamic

in nature, it enables an individual to function effectively in the world of work, play, school, home and any situation the individual may find him or herself.

However the concept of performance according to Oxford Advance learners dictionary (2013) Is how well or bad an individual does something or carryout a given task? This means that, performance is used to measure activities carried out by individuals. Merriam Webster dictionary (2015) on the other hand defines performance as the fulfillment of a claim, promise or request. Relating this to the study the researchers see academic performance as the extent to which a student attains a given acceptable standard in an academic task. A student academic standard can either be above or below average depending on certain factors or conditions surrounding the situation. Various studies have proven that correlation exist between students exposure to pornographic material and sexual crimes like rape, lesbianism, cybersex, among others (Buzzel, 2005). Thus, the need to fathom students’ perception towards pornography became imperative as it would likely have impact on the students of social studies adversely or favorably. This is because; the rate of sex crimes amongst students especially in our tertiary institution is not unrelated to their perception and exposure to influential pornographic materials likewise a low slide in their academic performance which is disturbing and very alarming in the recent past.

On this note, there is a dire need to carefully expose the students to the dangers and benefits if any associated to pornography as well as proffering solutions to this menace and show ways that access to pornographic materials can be curtailed as a social problem and alien to our society as well as our moral values in general.

Theories of Pornography in Relation to Social Studies

According to Geoffrey (2018) there are so many reported studies on pornography especially relating to sexuality explicit materials or those involving minors over the years. This is because, it is considered illegal since the pictures involves

consensual acts not too acceptable for younger generations to view more so, the issue is already covered and addressed by the crimes Act of 1914 (commonwealth of Australia, 1999). Thus, the theories of pornography harm basically centers on five premises namely:

- Libertarian view
- Conservative view
- Radical Feminist
- Socialist Feminist
- Men's movement

The libertarian conception as Geoffery contented (2018) believes that, free expression is an indispensable condition and that sexuality is a force of nature which must be satisfied. Thus, the word pornography has many genres and many meaning ranging from different opinions hence, threatens the community itself. More so, the law of rationality and of morality has long been a part of the criminal law and that the state may consider it a harm with empirical evidence to prove that it does have a social implication if not it is an illegitimate exercise of power over an individual in a democratic society (Whitaker 1994 & Whittle 1998). This suggests that individuals can only view pornographic materials only if they can prove through the state apparatus that it is no immoral.

The conservative theory believe that, sexuality as a force of nature is dangerous and often out of control. Hence, it is a threat to the society since the society is growing pervasive, immoral and the family disintegrating (Duggan, 1992). The premise is that the state must therefore, suppress pornography and the idea of free speech does not apply to the issue of pornography. In fact they believe that it is a scape goat for the real problems in society (Simon, 1990). This shows it is unacceptable for the conservatives in society since it intends to disintegrate the family morally speaking.

While to the Radical feminist, the theory of pornography states that sexuality is a social construction of the patriarchal society where women are not only hated but are oppressed by men. In short, they contend that, pornography violates women's right causing rape against women which in itself is violence on the gender.

Webster (1992) further states that, sexuality of men is a total oppression of women and a patriarchal culture. Hence, the state should prohibit it and try to protect women's civil right at all times.

However, the socialist feminist theory according to the author beliefs that, pornography is a fantasy and anybody practicing it is in a separate realm from reality. Steinberg (1990) in Geoffery says that, sexuality to the society school of thought is not "just a private phenomenon, it is something about ourselves that some of us at least prefer not to know". More so, Ellis et. al (1992) asserted that, poverty is the major factor in violence and sexual abuse of women and children. Thus, it imposes immense harm on women, children and men as well and so it should be prohibited.

On the other hand the men's movement theory as Geoffery (2018) contends pornography "is not just about harm to women but it shows the needs and fears of men. The theory further indicated that men often have fear for women's rejection and the terror associated to phallic failure (Stoltenberg, 1990). The theory presumes that, pornography should exist because of the sexual need as well as psychological need. It will promote men's self-acceptance and respect associated with loneliness and alienation. Consequently, any form of censorship of pornography would harm the men gender (Simon, 1990). This theory violates women's rights in all its ramification and promotes men's subjugation of women in the society.

Statement of the Problem

In Nigeria today, pornography is gradually gaining prominence in the educational system particularly at the tertiary institutions because the production, distribution and consumption of pornographic materials has become rampant and students' access to it has been left unchecked thereby, calling for caution and urgent reaction. It is further, a social problem which has created vacuum in the moral standard and also connected to students' exhibition of deviant behaviors and numerous sex crimes like rape, assault, molestation among others. Even issues

of lesbianism and homosexual are prevalent amongst university students today and this seems to have seriously impact against the social norms and values of the society. When social studies students have access to various pornographic materials just like all other students it may become a problem to the society at large. For instance, a situation whereby students access pornographic sites at ease from their cell phones and even download some of these porn videos to watch over and over again because these sites are numerous as reported in August, 1997 that there were 72,000 sexual explicit sites on the internet and an estimate of 260 new porn sites daily is created in an article credited to (<http://www.google.com>) would produce citizens that may not be able to concentrate in life thus, this also increased the impact of pornography on social studies students and their academic performance seems to be deteriorating in the recent past.

Furthermore, the rampant cases of unwanted pregnancy among students seems to be a thing of concern as it may become a severe obstacle to the victim concern, the parents of the victim, and even the society at-large. By implication, it may lead to drop out and stigmatizations thereby leaving such victims depressed and traumatized. Again, most social studies students just like other students need to be doing well in their academic pursuits but because of pornography lately seem to be drifting as the time and efforts they are supposed to spend reading educational and relevant information on the internet may be redirected or re-channeled to the consumption of pornographic materials to the detriment of their academic activities which would turn out to be serious problem as well.

Pornography may seem to be gaining trend in society also and many are moving with the bandwagon of modernization especially some students of social studies as they may perceive it as civilization. The act of watching or consumption of pornographic materials by such students would seem ideal, but it may contradicts the norms and even the law of nature because the things students see in pornography are epitome of immoral acts like oral sex, anal sex and lesbianism to mention but a few. The

theories discussed above further exposes some group of people who feel it is a right for them to explore pornographic materials without restrictions in the time of widespread and unfortunate confusion about moral norms. The mass media too have made the wide array and genres of pornography accessible to a vastly expanded audience who may be innocent including social studies students and this has created a problem which at one time pornography was viewed as only confined to developed nations but it has now become corrupted to African morals and to a large extent worthwhile and cherish able values in developing countries via the mass media is fast dying. Therefore, to what extent does social studies students perception of pornography influences their academic performance and attitude?

Aim and Objectives

The general aim of this study is to find out students' perception of pornography and its impact on social studies students' in University of Jos vis-a-vis their performance and attitude as well as suggest ways of curtailing access to pornographic materials and contents.

The specific objectives of the study which the researcher intends to achieve are as follows:

- To find out social studies students perception of pornography in University of Jos. To determine the extent to which social studies students imitate what they see in pornographic materials.
- To find out the relationship between pornography and the academic performance of social studies students.
- To examine the relationship between pornography and the attitudes of social studies students.
- To find out students opinion on whether pornographic materials and contents should be eradicated or not.

Research Question

The research questions which this study set to provide answers too are as follows:

- What is the perception of social studies students on Pornography in University of Jos?
- Is there any relationship between pornography and the academic performance of the students in social studies?
- What is the relationship between pornography and attitudes of social studies students in University of Jos?
- What is the opinion of social studies students on eradication of pornography in University of Jos?

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated to guide the study:

- There is a significant relationship between students’ perception of pornography and their academic performance in social studies.
- There will be no significant relationship between students’ exposure to pornography and their attitudes in social studies education.

Research Design

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

Population and Sample

The population for this study consists of all the students in the unit of social studies education within the social science department in faculty of Education University of Jos. The population

consisted of both gender without any form of bias and all the students in this unit virtually from 100 levels to 400 level makes up the population of this research work. Thus the total population consists of 244 in number. The sample for this study is made up of 180 students which were equally drawn from the total population of 244 students in the unit of social studies education. Thus, the researchers studied the 180 students as sample and there after used the findings to generalize on the whole social studies education students at the University of Jos.

Sampling Techniques

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

Instrument for Data Collection

The instrument used to generate data for this study was the questionnaire method which is tagged as questionnaire on student’s perception of pornography in social studies (QSPSS).

Analysis of Findings

From the data collected, the analysis was based on 3 sections, namely section 1 depicting bio-data of respondents/students, section 2 contains the research questions or items requiring responses and section 3 analyses the research hypothesis. The bio-data were duly analyzed including research questions using the simple percentage method while the hypothesis was tested using the t-test.

Research Question One: What is the perception of social studies students towards pornography in University of Jos?

S/N	Statement	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%
	Pornography is good amongst students And should be encourage	23	12.8	13	7.2	27	15	117	56
2.	Pornographic materials are bad for students’ consumption and usage	78	43.3	24	13.3	22	12.2	56	32
3	Pornography is modernization and trending activity but should be Allowed to flourish	26	14.4	29	16.1	50	27.8	75	41.7

The analysis from the table above reveal students response on research question I and, most students disagree to the items that pornography is good among students and should be encouraged, while majority of the students agree hat, 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.

Research Question Two: Is there any relationship between pornography and students performance in social studies?

S/N	Statement	SA	%	A	%	D	%	SD	%
	Students exposed to pornography Perform well in their	14	7.8	32	17.8	48	26.7	86	47.7
	Pornographic-materials–makes -students Procrastinate their academic activities	48	26.7	67	37.3	27	15	38	21.1
	Students who are not exposed to Pornography perform better in their	64	35.5	53	29.5	34	18.9	29	16.1

The analysis from the table above also shows students responses which revealed 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.

HYPOTHESIS TESTING

Hypothesis :There is no significant relationship between students’ perception pornography and their academic performance in social studies.

Variables	N	Mean	S.D	D.F	Sig	t-cal	t-crit	Decision
Perception of pornography	(X1) 20	45	25.54					
				38	0.05	1.645		Accept
Academic performance (X2)	20	44	16.36					

From the table above and the data in it depicts that, the calculated t (0.074) is less than the tabulated t (1.645). Therefore, the researchers failed to reject the alternative hypothesis-which-states “there is no significant relationship between students’ perception and academic performance in Social Studies University of Jos. Consequently, the hypothesis tested above, has further indicated that, there is indeed a relationship between students’ perception of pornography and their academic performance and that should form the basis for accepting the alternative hypothesis formulated in this study or research work.

Recommendations

According to the findings of this study, it would be wise to make some recommendations on how to contain and curtail this social menace hence the researchers suggest thus:

- Policy makers should restrict the blatant depiction of pornographic materials for adverts on television and other media.
- Social studies teachers should instruct students not to use their cell phones while classes or lectures are ongoing
- Social studies teachers should always ask questions to ensure that the students

- are not absent minded during lectures or lessons
- The number of students in each class should be reduced, so that the lecturers would be able to monitor the activities of each student in the class. In order words, over population should be checked by the school management.
 - There should be adequate funding of education so that, all learning facilities and equipment could be made available to stimulate the students' interest in learning.
 - Parents should be mindful of what their children do with phones at home or when indoors
 - Students should be given proper sex education so as to expose them to the ills of pornography in society in later life
 - Government should as a matter of urgency ensure that the internet is well managed so as to control pornographic sites by truncating access of citizens to such sites.
 - Schools administrators should also take it upon themselves to see that experts of social studies only are employed to handle the course to ensure effective delivery of the course content which would in turn bring about change in the learners.
 - The criminal acts or punishment that offenders or perpetrators of sex abuse are supposed to suffer should be implemented to curtail abusers in society

Conclusion

Base on the findings of this study, it can be seen that pornography is a global social problem, which has been a cause of concern to stakeholders and even individuals who are worried with the way societal humanitarian values and sanity have deteriorated. More so, the preserve sexual activities for marriage institution have now become a trending as well as contemporal affair for the young which does not urgo well in society. This is indeed a threat to the social values and moral standards in Nigeria.

Consequently, pornography has a significant relationship to academic performance of students negatively. It further reveals that, students perception and usage of pornographic materials has a correlation with their attitudes and that is why some students play on truancy and loitering among other social vices. The issue of rape, unwanted pregnancy and even homosexuality has become a way of life amongst Nigerian students today thus; the only way to curtain this menace is by ensuring that students' access to pornographic materials, restricting the production and distribution as well as through legislation and also educating the students on such phenomenon through sex education.

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