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**THE EFFECTS OF PORNOGRAPHY TO
ADOLESCENTS**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL STATEMENT

It is undeniable that pornography has always been a controversial topic in society, especially among adolescents. At the beginning of the last century, feminists criticized pornography as the content of pornography equivalent to violence against women (Dworkin, 1979). According to Ong Chin Lan (2018, as cited in THE ASEAN POST, 2021), Malaysia is the country with the largest number of IP addresses for downloading and uploading pornography in Southeast Asia. Most teenagers in Malaysia have watched pornography (Malaysians Against Pornography, 2018, as THE ASEAN POST, 2021). These data indicates that pornography is widely promoted among teenagers in Malaysia.

1.2 THESIS STATEMENT

Similar to most controversial topics, pornography inevitably brings plenty of negative effects that could influence many aspects in adolescents' lives. Watching pornography during adolescent years, or in general can give bad effects on the mind, increase the risks of bad health, and it could trigger the engagement in more sexual crimes.

2.0 NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON ADOLESCENTS' MIND

Emotional distress such as no sense of shame, humiliation, and loss of judgement (Ashraaf & Othman, 2019). “Unlike drug addiction, the problem of pornography addiction is more difficult to treat because there are no specific drugs available and pornographic materials are more readily accessible than drugs that makes pornography addiction very difficult to treat.” (Ashraaf & Othman, 2019, p.9). According to Ashraaf and Othman (2019), adolescents who watched pornography lose their respect for parents and cause conflicts in family relationships in incidents such as rape.

3.0 RISK OF BAD HEALTH AMONG ADOLESCENTS

Through clinical reports, high pornography consumption results in cases of erectile dysfunction and low sexual arousal (Williams, 2019). Young adults and adolescents find themselves with low self-esteem as it is seen that many young children undergo feelings of insecurities due to the rise of social comparison (Williams, 2019). Researchers have found that grey matter has decreased significantly in the brain images of porn viewers, which is extremely concerning as it could be linked to diseases such as Bipolar and Schizophrenia (Williams, 2019). According to Braun-Courville and Rojas (2009), adolescents that are exposed to explicit Internet sites that could influence their thinking and consider attempting multiple sex pairs, anal sex, and strange substance use during sex can increase the risk of sexual transmitted infections such as HIV.

4.0 ADOLESCENTS' ENGAGEMENT IN CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Male students who watch violent pornography show more hostile manners towards women, in comparison to those watching consensual sex or nonsexual interactions. However, it is vague whether or not pornography has an effect on the rape rate (Ferguson & Hartley, 2009). A study has found that teenagers with a significant exposure to televised sexual content have a higher likelihood to increase teenage pregnancy cases by two times (Chandra et al, 2008). In a randomised experimental study among young men in Denmark, exposure to nonviolent pornography has led to less equality beliefs and higher levels of hostile sexism (Flood, 2020).

5.0 OWN EVALUATION

In our opinion, we strongly agree that effects on the mind are one of the major negative impacts that could be gained from pornography usage. The advances of the Internet in this current technological era increases the prospects for adolescents to be more significantly exposed to pornographic content. When adolescents and young adults cannot differentiate the right from wrong, these pornographic films will indirectly affect their outlook on the world, life, and values. Teenagers' minds are prone to be affected by what they see and they would be unable to control themselves, leading to major negative behaviours being performed as to what they have seen in these contents.

It is inevitable to say that with the existence of pornography, a majority of adolescent viewers tend to develop bad health problems. Along the lines, suicidal cases have highly increased over the decade due to the constant doubt being felt by adolescents and you adults. This is because most boys believe they could not last as long as the porn stars they view, and young girls will believe their bodies are not the ideal as seen through the screens. Though it is also known that watching pornography could increase the secretion of dopamine, when done excessively, it could lead to major side effects that could slow down the brain. Aside to that, the increase of infectious diseases such as HIV occurs too due to the idea that risky sex ethics are normalized.

We can also come to terms that pornography can lead people, notably adolescents, to do sexual crimes, which serves as a great threat to society. With continuous exposure towards explicit images and pornography videos, adolescents and young adults are intended to do heinous crimes towards women and also children. Rape, voyeurism and in possession of sexual videos without consent or child porn is an outgoing issue in our community. Due to the limited access to sex education, most teenagers and adolescents are usually unclear on how to prevent and overcome teen pregnancy. This can also lead to abortion and also the death of the mothers. With the content of pornography people are also following the act portrayed in the content by calling women degrading slurs such as "bitch" or "slut" which leads to discrimination towards females.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 SUMMARY

To drive into a conclusion, we have collectively agreed that pornography does come with a wide amount of negative side effects, which includes giving bad effects on the mind, increase the risks of bad health like HIV and AIDS, and it could trigger the engagement in more sexual crimes such as rape and sexual assault.

6.2 OVERALL COMMENT

In the most indefinite form, it is undeniable that pornography is difficult to diminish entirely. With the current world's advanced technology, pornography content is remarkably easy to be spread all around the world, regardless of age. Education systems and parents should play an important role in educating and monitoring what adolescents and young adults search and view. Due to the growing curiosity of teenagers, it is crucial to have their mannerisms and understandings corrected to minimize the risk of negative effects. Hence, instilling correct sex knowledge in adolescents and young adults will significantly reduce negative impacts of pornography.

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