

**THE IMPACT OF PORNOGRAPHIC CONTENT ON THE ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT OF TEENAGERS: A STUDY OF WESTERN NSIT
SECONDARY SCHOOL, UKAI ARAN, AKWA IBOM STATE**

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Abstract

This research explored how exposure to pornographic content affects the academic achievement of teenagers, focusing on students at Western Nsit Secondary School, Ukai Aran. The study examined two key aspects: the impact of pornographic materials on adolescents and the impact of addiction to such content on students' academic

performance. A total of 354 participants were surveyed using a cross-sectional approach. Data were gathered with a custom instrument titled “Pornographic Contents Questionnaire (PCQ)” while the academic achievement of the teenagers was assessed using their second-term results obtained from the official school assessment records. Simple linear regression was applied to analyze the results. Findings, significant at a 0.05 level, revealed that exposure to pornography and addiction to it, all notably impact academic achievement among these students. Recommendations to address these issues are provided.

Keywords: Pornography, Teenagers, Academic Success, Secondary Education

Introduction

“Pornography” originates from Greek terms: “porne,” meaning prostitute, and “graphien,” meaning to write, initially referring to writings about the lives of prostitutes (Clementina, Efetobor, & Aph, 2015; Lanre-Babalola, 2018). Over time, its meaning has broadened to encompass explicit images, texts, or conversations that are immoral. In this study, pornographic materials refer to explicit depictions of nudity or sexual acts in various forms—such as photos, videos, or written works—that provoke arousal or depict sexual behaviour in a raw, unfiltered way (Sanchez, 2022). These materials can shape an individual’s psychological well-being and academic focus, either enhancing or undermining their development (Martellozzo et al., 2020).

In some institutions of learning and public spaces in Akwa Ibom State, teenagers frequently encounter pornographic content. Access points, including internet cafes, mobile devices, and physical media like magazines, are widespread and appealing to curious adolescents seeking to explore sexuality indirectly (Shittu & Ruth, 2019). The rise of technology has intensified this trend, making explicit content more accessible and potentially addictive. Addiction to pornography, as explored here, involves an excessive preoccupation with sexual content that disrupts daily life, including academic responsibilities (Yunengsih & Setiawan, 2022). With education being vital for personal growth (Chima, 2017), distractions like pornography could hinder students’ ability to thrive academically (Animasahun, 2007). This research investigates these impacts among students at Western Nsit Secondary School.

Purpose of the Study

This study aimed to assess the impact of pornographic content on the academic achievements of teenagers at Western Nsit Secondary School. Specifically, it sought to:

1. Examine the impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers.
2. Investigate the impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers.

Research Questions

1. What is the impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers?
2. What is the impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers?

Hypotheses

The following null hypotheses were tested at a 0.05 significance level:

1. There is no significant impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers.
2. There is no significant impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers

Methodology

The study adopted a cross-sectional survey design, collecting data at a single point in time using quantitative methods to produce measurable results, such as academic scores, alongside qualitative insights into behaviours. The target population included all 2,256 Senior Secondary School Two (SS2) students at Western Nsit Secondary School, chosen for their familiarity with the school environment compared to newer SS1 students or exam-focused SS3 students.

A sample of 354 SS2 students (182 males, 172 females) was selected via simple random sampling. A brief oral interview helped refine the participant pool. Data were gathered with a custom instrument titled “Pornographic Contents Questionnaire (PCQ)” while the academic achievement of the teenagers was assessed using their second-term results obtained from the official school assessment records. The questionnaire was divided into two sections: personal details (Section A) and 10 items addressing the two variables (Section B), scored on a 4-1 scale (Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree). The researcher, assisted by two aides, distributed and retrieved all 354 questionnaires with school approval. The questionnaire’s validity was confirmed by two educational psychology experts, while its reliability was tested on 25 non-sample SS2 students, yielding an 0.82 reliability coefficient via Kuder-Richardson-21

(KR-21). Simple linear regression was used to analyze the data obtained. Values of R and R² of Simple linear regression analysis were used to answer the research questions while the F-value was used to test the hypotheses. Each of the hypothesis was tested at .05 level of significance.

Results

Research Question One

What is the impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers?

Table 1: Result of simple linear regression analysis of the impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers (N= 354)

Variables	R	R ²	Adjusted R ²	Remarks
Exposure to pornographic materials	.768	.590	.586	High Impact
Academic achievements of teenagers				

The result presented in Table 1 revealed the R-value of .768 as the strength of the relationship between exposure to pornographic materials and academic achievements of teenagers. The R² – value of .590 also shown in Table 1 indicates that only 59.0 percent variation in academic achievements of teenagers is explained or predicted by exposure to pornographic materials. This implies that there is high impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers.

Research Question Two

What is the impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers?

Table 2: Result of simple linear regression analysis of the impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievement of teenagers (N= 354)

Variables	R	R²	Adjusted R²	Remarks
Addiction to pornographic content	.811	.658	.654	Very High Impact
Academic achievements of teenagers				

The result presented in Table 2 revealed the R-value of .811 as the strength of the relationship between addiction to pornographic content and academic achievements of teenagers. The R²– value of .658 also shown in Table 2 indicates that only 65.8 percent variation in academic achievement of teenagers is explained or predicted by addiction to pornographic content. This implies that there is a very high impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers.

Hypothesis One

There is no significant impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers

Table 3 : Summary of simple linear regression analysis of the impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers (N= 354)

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Regression	836.98	1	836.98	34.73	.00 ^b
1	Residual	8482.88	352	24.10		
	Total	9319.86	353			

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Coefficients		
	(Constant)	38.42	1.90		20.24	.00
1	Exposure to pornographic materials	-1.50	-.13	.73	11.23	.00

The result in Table 3 shows the F-ratio of 34.73 with the corresponding probability level of significance of .00 alpha at 1 and 352 degrees of freedom. This level of significance is less than .05 in which the decision is based. With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. The result in Table 3 shows an unstandardized coefficient (B) of -1.50, indicating that for every one unit increase in exposure to pornographic materials, academic achievement of teenagers decreases by 1.50. Furthermore, the result in Table 3 shows the t-value of 11.23, with its corresponding probability level of significance of .00 alpha. This level of significance is less than .05 in which the decision is based. With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This result implies that there is significant impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers.

. Hypothesis Two

There is no significant impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers

Table 4: Summary of simple linear regression analysis of the impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers (N= 354)

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
	Regression	1005.87	1	1005.87	42.59	.00 ^b
1	Residual	8313.99	352	23.62		
	Total	9319.86	353			

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Coefficients		
	(Constant)	45.91	3.24		14.19	.00
1	Addiction to pornographic	-3.02	-.25	.36	12.08	.01

The result in Table 4 shows the F-ratio of 42.59 with the corresponding probability level of significance of .00 alpha at 1 and 352 degrees of freedom. This level of significance is less than .05 in which the decision is based. With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. The result in Table 4 shows an unstandardized coefficient (B) of -3.02 which indicates that for every one unit rise in addiction to pornographic, academic achievement of teenagers decreases by 3.02. Furthermore, the result in Table 4 shows the t-value of 12.08, with its corresponding probability level of significance of .00 alpha. This level of significance is less than .05 in which the decision is based. With this result, the null hypothesis was rejected. This result implies that there is significant impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers.

Discussion of Findings

The finding of the impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers revealed that there is significant impact of exposure to pornographic materials on academic achievements of teenagers. The finding aligns with prior research suggesting that explicit sexual content distracts students, negatively affecting their focus and academic results (Brown & Wisco, 2019; Albury, 2014). The internet's role in amplifying access to such materials further compounds this issue (Arrington-Sanders et al., 2015). The finding of the impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers revealed that there is

significant impact of addiction to pornographic content on academic achievements of teenagers. The finding aligns with previous research which found that compulsive engagement with pornography disrupts emotional stability and academic dedication of students (Efrati & Gola, 2018; De Crisce, 2013). Technology's accessibility exacerbates this problem (Chen et al., 2013)

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it was concluded that there is impact of pornographic content on the academic achievements of teenagers at Western Nsit Secondary School.

Recommendations

1. Teenagers should avoid excessive engagement with pornography to protect their academic and psychological health.
2. School counselors should organize programs to help students overcome pornography addiction.
3. Parents should monitor their children's media consumption to prevent exposure to harmful content.
4. Policy makers should enact laws restricting the sale and distribution of pornographic materials.
5. Governments should enforce strict media censorship and require internet providers to filter explicit content

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