

PORNOGRAPHY, SOCIETY AND YOU

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ABSTRACT

Over the past decade there has been a large increase in the pornographic materials that are available to both adults and children. This increase is tied to a couple of factors: they are accessible, affordable and anonymous. By accessibility, it is meant that anyone can use them on the Internet. It is affordable because they are offered free by many online websites. They are anonymous because they can be viewed privately without visiting an adult book store or a public theatre. This development, in terms of availability of pornographic materials, has often been interpreted as a healthy liberation from the suffocating sexual mores of older generations. While it is true that society has evolved from its Puritan prudishness, this work thinks that the pendulum has swung too far when it comes to the ubiquity of pornography in our contemporary world. This work has studied the impact of pornography on individual persons and on the society at large and submits that pornography creates a dependency culture that weakens the individual; it also causes a disruption that weakens marriages and results in a distortion in thinking that weakens the ability of individuals to relate and function.

Keywords: Pornography, Society, Sexualization, Assault, Enlightenment, Modern Period.

INTRODUCTION

If we were to divide the history of humanity into the ancient, medieval and modern periods in relation to the development of pornography, one would easily notice that during the ancient period, people were more concerned with seeking rational explanations for the nature of the universe. They were first filled with wonder and curiosity about the nature of the cosmos¹, and observed that there was permanence in the midst of change, and also that there was unity in the midst of plurality. In their wonder, they concluded that there must be a primary element that would explain the unity in diversity and permanence in change. This led to the second stage, “what could this primary stuff be?” Having raised this question among others, they began to find answers to these fundamental questions². Although there were shifts from the cosmos to man and society, these were not the primary considerations of this age. The age was mainly COSMOCENTRIC.

In 476 AD the Roman Empire had fallen to the Barbarians, resulting to the loss of ancient literature. This introduced the Medieval period, dominated by Christian scholars who kept ancient

¹ Kanu I. A., *Introduction to Philosophy*. Germany: Lambert publication. 2018, p. 120.

² Kanu I. A., *Introduction to Philosophy*, p. 120.

works alive by transmitting them to the next generation. During this period, thought focused on issues such as Universals, proofs of the existence of God, faith and reason, etc. It was a Christian era. Batista Mondin writes that:

The Middle Ages marks the triumph of the Christian faith. It is the epoch in which the Church converted all Europe to Christ's faith. A new society was born, a society basing its juridical statutes not on the Twelve Tablets of the Kings of Rome, but on the Gospel of Christ³.

This group of scholars sometimes referred to as theologians, made no clear-cut distinction between philosophy and theology. They made use of philosophy in the clarification of theological concepts. The medieval period was, therefore, referred to as THEOCENTRIC.

The Modern period covers from the renaissance period, which marked the end of the medieval epoch. With the advent of the renaissance, intellectual authority began to move gradually from the hands of ecclesiastical figures to that of literary men. The spirit of scientific enquiry began to challenge theological dogmas. The modern period gradually threw overboard the theocentricism of the 'Medieval World'. The practical began to dominate the landscape of the human search for knowledge, giving impetus to science and technology, the conquest of nature⁴.

The influence of Enlightenment thinking on the question of how men managed their own bodies and desires at this period cannot be underestimated. One of the precepts of this era was that men and women should allow their consciences to lead them so long as they harm no one. While this doctrine may have been responsible for libertinism, it also helped to give rise to a society with a more sexually liberal outlook. Unavoidably, this new mentality, came to bear on the relationships between men and women. Sexual urge came to be regarded as 'a natural impulse; prostitution came to be tolerated as 'a necessary evil', preserving innocent women from the lusts of men, and men from the lures of sodomy. Pornography, one of the offspring of this mentality and scientific developments is the subject of concern in this paper. And as a consequence, the paper would be divided into five parts:

1. An understanding of pornography as a concept
2. The historical development of pornography
3. Why pornography is an issue for discussion and concern
4. The consequences of Pornography on you as an individual
5. The consequences of Pornography on the society as a whole

WHAT IS PORNOGRAPHY?

³Mondin, B., *A history of Medieval philosophy*. Rome: Urbaniana University Press. 2005, p.1.

⁴Kanu, I. A., Man, science and technology: The contradictions of our contemporary world. *The Viewpoint Magazine*, June 2004. 3. 4, p.3.

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The word *pornography*, derived from the Greek *porni*, meaning “prostitute” and *graphein*, which means “to write”. It was originally understood within the context of any work of art or literature depicting the life of prostitutes. It was an understanding that came from the Greeks who painted frescos of prostitutes on the walls of their brothels. They served as pictures advertising the homes where women sold their love to Greeks for money⁵. This notwithstanding, pornography may be presented in a variety of media, including books, magazines, postcards, photographs, sculpture, drawing, painting, animation, sound recording, phone calls, writing, film, video, video games⁶, etc. The word *Pornographie* was used in the French language during the 1800s, and entered the English language in 1857. The word was originally introduced by classical scholars as a non-offensive term for writing about prostitutes. The meaning was further expanded to include all forms of obscene material in art and literature⁷.

Generally, pornography refers to any representation of sexual behaviour in books, pictures, statues, motion pictures, and other media that is intended to cause sexual excitement. However, what might be pornographic for one group of people might not be pornographic for another group. It is such that imageries that might be considered erotic or even religious in one society may be condemned as pornographic in another. What might be considered pornographic by a Muslim may not be considered the same way by a Hindu or Buddhist. Imageries like the Khajuraho of Hindu religion is a good example. It was considered pornographic by many travelers especially of western origin, while for the Hindu, it is nothing more than a religious imagery for contemplation. So also, phallic imagery and depictions of orgiastic scenes widely present in ancient Greece and Rome while considered pornographic at the present history might not be considered so at the time they were made⁸. In traditional African societies, women moved around with their breasts open to the public, and it was not in any way considered pornographic, but for a woman to move around in the streets of Africa in our age exposing her breasts, it would be considered highly pornographic. This implies that the consideration of a material to be pornographic is highly dependent on time and place, and thus, subjective.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF PORNOGRAPHY

Although pornography, has been in existence from the early days of human history, the more technology developed, the more obvious its presence became. Researchers discovered rock paintings demonstrating coitus between ancient people. This dates pornographic images to ancient times. However, it is not very clear if the images were pornographic or erotic. This is a problem

⁵ Dmitry Sudakov, *History of pornography: scandalous beginning and habitual reality*. <http://www.pravdareport.com/history/18-08-2016/94805-pornography-0>.

⁶ Pornography. Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pornography>.

⁷ Pornography. Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia

⁸ John Philip Jenkins, *Pornography- Sociology*. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/pornography>.

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that is part of our time as it is still difficult to tell the difference between pornography and erotica, to tell what is allowed for demonstration in public and what is not⁹. First documented porn pictures were printed in oriental manuals of sex, and Kama Sutra was one among many others. The **Kama Sutra** is an ancient Indian Hindu text written by Vātsyāyana. It is widely considered to be the standard work on human sexual behaviour in Sanskrit literature. A portion of the work consists of practical advice on sexual intercourse¹⁰. The Hindu feared that the paper works would not survive and decorated the temples of Kajuharo with numerous figurines of people having sex¹¹.

However, as Christianity spread, there was a wide prohibition of imageries of erotica or pornography. All that was encouraged were the pictures of saints, and this continued for several centuries. This did not put an end to the spread of such images. Rather as a reaction, individuals and groups began to observe that oppression of human sexuality caused a lot of problems in the society. Various movements began to advocate for free expression of human sexuality, and developed in what we now know as a sexual revolution. Contraception was wildly encouraged, and enrolment in premarital sexual relationship became a norm¹². It was taught that the history of sexuality over the past three hundred years was a history of repression and the only way to liberate ourselves from this repression, is to be more open about our sexuality and to enjoy it.

Thus pornography made its way into the mainstream society, and was viewed as an individual right to self exploration. During this period, Catharine MacKinnon, a famous feminist wrote:

I take this personally, the effort to repress materials I enjoy – to tell me how wrong it is for me to enjoy it. Anti-pornographic legislation is directed at me: as a user, as a writer¹³.

Pattin Britton avers from the medical perspective that:

As a board-certified clinical sexologist, I can tell you that it is common knowledge in my field that sexually explicit films and videos are often recommended as a mode of treatment for couples or individuals with clinical sexual problems. Such materials are viewed by professionals as helpful, not harmful, assets in the treatment process.¹⁴

During the Renaissance, pornography flourished even the more, and was empowered by technological progress.

⁹ Dmitry Sudakov, History of pornography: scandalous beginning and habitual reality. <http://www.pravdareport.com/history/18-08-2016/94805-pornography-0>.

¹⁰ Doniger, Wendy. *Kamasutra: Oxford World's Classics*. Oxford University Press, 2003. p. i.; Coltrane, Scott, *Gender and families*. England, Rowman & Littlefield, 1998. p. 36.

¹¹ Dmitry Sudakov, History of pornography: scandalous beginning and habitual reality. <http://www.pravdareport.com/history/18-08-2016/94805-pornography-0>.

¹² Bender, David, Bruno Leone, and Carol Wekesser. *Pornography Opposing Viewpoints*. San Diego: Greenhaven Press Inc, 1997. p.29

¹³ Bender, David, Bruno Leone, and Carol Wekesser. *Pornography Opposing Viewpoints*. p.29.

¹⁴ Bender, David, Bruno Leone, and Carol Wekesser. *Pornography Opposing Viewpoints*. p.30

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The modern history of Western pornography began with the Enlightenment in 18th century, when printing technology had advanced enough to permit the production of written and visual materials¹⁵. At the end of the 18th century France became the leading country regarding the spread of pornographic pictures. Pornography became an element of playing-cards, posters, post cards and so on.¹⁶ In 1837, there were more than 50 pornographic shops on Holywell Street in London and the United States despite¹⁷.

In the 19th century the inventions of photography and later of motion pictures were quickly put to use in the production of pornography. Pornographic films were widely available no later than the 1920s, and in the 1960s their popularity enjoyed a massive upsurge. The development of videocassettes in the 1980s and digital video discs (DVDs) in the 1990s enabled the wide distribution of pornographic films and further encouraged their use because they could be viewed in private. Pornographic images and films became even more widely available with the emergence of the Internet in the 1990s¹⁸.

Prior to the development of internet pornography, to watch obscene images, one had to take a risk of being caught and exposed. With pornography being marketed as a healthy behavior, many people turned to it to satisfy their sexual desires. With the internet technology, people no longer had to risk an embarrassing exposure in order to get access to pornography as they can now watch an unlimited amount of obscene materials from the comfort of their home¹⁹. Apart from providing a vast marketplace for commercial pornography appealing to many diverse tastes, the Internet also encouraged many amateurs to post images of themselves, images that often challenged traditional concepts of beauty and sex appeal. The use of webcams opened the industry even further to amateurs²⁰.

WHY IS PORNOGRAPHY AN ISSUE?

Why is pornography a thing of concern? Why should we all be gathered to discuss PORNOGRAPHY, SOCIETY AND YOU? An infographic study of pornography would help us understand the basis of our concern.

1. 12% of the websites on the internet are pornographic, that is about 24, 644.172 websites

¹⁵ John Philip Jenkins, *Pornography- Sociology*. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/pornography>.

¹⁶ John Philip Jenkins, *Pornography- Sociology*.

¹⁷ John Philip Jenkins, *Pornography- Sociology*.

¹⁸ John Philip Jenkins, *Pornography- Sociology*.

¹⁹ *History of pornography and how it became a problem*. <http://www.feedtherightwolf.org/2011/07/history-of-pornography-and-how-it>.

²⁰ John Philip Jenkins, *Pornography- Sociology*.

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2. Pornography sites receive more regular traffic than Netflix, Amazon and twitter put together.
3. Every second, 28,258 internet users are watching pornography
4. 2.5 billion emails sent everyday are pornographic
5. 25% of all search engine requests are pornography related. We are talking about 68 million searches per day
6. 34% of internet users have experienced unwanted exposure to pornography, either through pop up adds, or misdirected links or emails²¹
7. 70% of men view pornographic sites every month
8. 1 of 3 of every pornography viewer is a woman
9. There are 116 searches for child pornography everyday
10. The average age when a child first sees pornography is 11 years
11. 35% of all internet downloads are pornography
12. The days when pornography sites are very busy is on Sundays²²
13. By the 21st century there were some four million Web sites devoted to pornography, containing more than a quarter of a billion pages—in other words, more than 10 percent of the Web²³.

In a series of studies conducted by Dolf Zillman and Jennings Bryant²⁴ they observed that society's acceptance of pornography creates the following problems for young adult:

1. Male subjects demonstrated increase callousness toward women.
2. Subjects considered the crime of rape less serious.
3. Subjects were more accepting of non-marital sexual activity and non-coital sexual practices such as oral and anal sex.
4. Subjects became more interested in more extreme and deviant forms of pornography.
5. Subjects were more likely to say they were dissatisfied with their sexual partner.
6. Subjects were more accepting of sexual infidelity in a relationship.
7. Subjects value marriage less and were twice as likely to believe marriage may become obsolete.
8. Men experience a decreased desire for children, and women experienced a decreased desire to have a daughter.
9. Subjects show a greater acceptance of female promiscuity.

²¹ Finkelhor, D., Mitchell, K. & Wolak, J., The Exposure of You to Unwanted Sexual Material on the Internet: A National survey of Risk, Impact, and Prevention. *Youth & Society* March, 2003, 34: 3, p. 340.

²² Tim, *The stats on internet pornography*. Daily infographic. <https://www.dailyinfographic.com/the-stats-on-internet-pornography-infographic>

²³ Robert Kahn and Michael Aaron Dennis, Internet: Computer Network. In *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/technology/Internet#ref893513>.

²⁴ Zillman, D., Bryant, J., Effects of Prolonged Consumption of Pornography on Family Values. *Journal of Family Issues*, Vol. 9 No. 4, December 1988, pp. 518-544.

PORNOGRAPHY AND YOU

This section of the research titled “Pornography and You” focuses on the negative consequences of pornography on the person, as an individual substance of a rational nature.

a. Pornography Sexualizes

Pornography makes the user to see the other person simply as a sexual object, or things that are only there for the gratification of man’s sexual urge, rather than a human person deserving of respect and dignity, and connecting to her emotionally or intellectually²⁵. Most women whose male partners view pornography feel betrayed at the end of its use and develop a lower self-esteem, feelings of inadequacy, and a feeling of being sexually undesirable. This also lowers her sexual satisfaction and makes her rate her relationship in the negative²⁶.

b. Distorted view of Sex

Pornography use by adolescents and young adults often leads to a distorted view of sexuality and its role in fostering healthy personal relationships. This distortion occurs mainly because a significant percentage of pornography viewers end up developing a preference for the fantasy world of pornography over actual sexual activity with their partners²⁷. These distortions include: the belief that sexual promiscuity is normal, and the belief that sexual abstinence is unhealthy.³⁴ These perspectives are likely to make it more difficult for young people to form lasting, meaningful relationships with the opposite sex.³⁵

c. Pornography Commodifies

Dr. Michael Rich, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School observes that:

Pornography ... commodifies the sexual act. Pornography turns something that is intimate, human communication and intimate connection with another human into something which can be bought and sold²⁸.

The reality about porn is that the addict is paying to watch people have sex. It is another form of prostitution, in the sense that the money you have paid to watch pornography is a

²⁵ Brett & Kate McKay, *On manhood: The problem with porn*. In the Art of Manliness. 2009. <https://www.artofmanliness.com/articles/the-problem-with-porn>.

²⁶ Stewart, D.N., Szymanski, D.M., Young Adult Women’s Reports of Their Male Romantic Partner’s Pornography Use as a Correlate of Their Self-Esteem, Relationship Quality, and Sexual Satisfaction. *Sex Roles*, May 6, 2012. 67:257-271.

²⁷ Manning, Jill. The Impact Internet Pornography on Marriage and the Family: A Review of the Research. *Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity* 2006, 13:131-165.

²⁸ Michael Rich, *Porn Commodifies Sex* [Video]. Retrieved from http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ercmw6jNHU&feature=player_embedded#!

contribution towards the payment of the strangers who are having sex for you to watch. It, therefore, fuels the demand for prostitution, many of whom are victims of human trafficking. In a 2003 study, 854 human traffic survivors were surveyed and it showed that 50% were forced to do pornography²⁹. The more you pay to consume porn, the more it is produced³⁰

d. Pornography and Teenage Pregnancy

Many teenagers who watch pornographic images would always want to put into practice what they have watched. And because they have no experience and have very little understanding of their body, they end up becoming pregnant.

e. Pornography and Brain Damage

The human brain continues to develop until we are in our mid-twenties. This implies that pornography would have huge consequences in the shaping or forming of the brains of teenagers³¹. In a recent primary research article in *JAMA Psychiatry*, the neuroscientist shows that pornography consumption is associated with decreased brain volume in the right striatum, decreased left striatum activation, and lower functional connectivity to the prefrontal cortex³². The consequence is a down-regulation of the brain's response to erotic material and the reinforcement of the ability to reason in a distorted manner³³. These neural changes in the brains of pornography users are similar to the changes observed in brains of individuals addicted to cocaine, alcohol, and methamphetamines³⁴.

f. Pornography and Self-delusion

Pornography destroys the joy and life of relationship and creates a world of delusion as an alternative to connecting to real people. The result is that it makes real relationship difficult- the picture of a woman in porn videos is that of human beings who don't talk, men just have their way and are gone. The truth is that women don't want to have sex all the time. There are times they only want to talk. In reality, true relational intimacy takes time, effort, patience, and investment, but the reward is abundance³⁵. Men who are deep into pornography find it very difficult building meaningful relationships because the women they meet don't meet up with the ones in their pornographic magazines and websites. Some of those who have sexual relationships still view their partner through a

²⁹ Grant Hilary Brenner, *Four ways porn use causes problems*. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/experimentations/201803/4-ways-porn-use-causes-problems>.

³⁰ Brett & Kate McKay, *On manhood: The problem with porn*.

³¹ Taylor McGee, *The problem with pornography*. <https://www.restoreculture.com/the-problem-with-pornography>.

³² Kuhn, S., Gallinat, J. Brain, Structure and Connectivity Associated with Pornography Consumption, *JAMA Psychiatry*, May, 2014.

³³ Taylor McGee, *The problem with pornography*.

³⁴ Kuhn, S., Gallinat, J. Brain Structure and Connectivity Associated with Pornography Consumption.

³⁵ Foster, B. J. *How to quit porn*. <https://www.allprodad.com/how-to-quit-porn>.

“pornographic filter.” They’ll resort to impersonal fantasy of some pornography scene when they’re having sex because the love for their partner isn’t enough to satisfy them³⁶.

g. Pornography and Depression

Researchers have discovered that the use of pornography is significantly associated with loneliness and that loneliness is significantly associated with pornography use. This is to say that addicts turn to pornography when they are lonely and depressed, however, after viewing it, they become more lonely and depressed³⁷. It was observed that for each “unit” of porn use, loneliness increased significantly by a factor of 0.20; for each unit of loneliness, pornography used increased by a factor of 0.16³⁸. Butler and colleagues go on to describe addiction to pornography as arising from maladaptive efforts to use porn to alleviate loneliness and other negative feelings³⁹. This includes a feeling of emptiness and lack of confidence in the inside.

h. Pornography and Sexual Satisfaction

Researchers have discovered that more frequent pornography viewing leads to lower sexual satisfaction⁴⁰. For instance, when you first try something new, the stimuli easily activate the relevant receptors. But after repeated exposure to the stimuli, your pleasure depreciates. At this point, people often reach for more-more food, more sex, more porn, etc., in order to recover the initial pleasure they once took in the experience. But this only begins a vicious cycle in which you must seek ever greater and more intense stimulation to return to your initial pleasure level⁴¹. Research also shows that as sexual satisfaction decline with pornography use⁴², so does the preference of the excitement of viewing pornography over being sexually intimate with a real person increase⁴³.

³⁶ Brett & Kate McKay, *On manhood: The problem with porn*.

³⁷ Brett & Kate McKay, *On manhood: The problem with porn*.

³⁸ Butler, Pereyra, Drap, Leonhardt, and Skinner, *Pornography Use and Loneliness: A Bidirectional Recursive Model and Pilot Investigation*. Surveyed 1, 247.

³⁹ Butler, Pereyra, Drap, Leonhardt, and Skinner (2018), *Pornography Use and Loneliness: A Bidirectional Recursive Model and Pilot Investigation*.

⁴⁰ Wright, Bridges, Sun, Ezzell, and Johnson (2018) in *Personal Pornography Viewing and Sexual Satisfaction: A Quadratic Analysis* look at a sample of 1,500 young adults to develop a more refined understanding of how the “dose” of pornography use is correlated with sexual satisfaction.

⁴¹ Brett & Kate McKay, *On manhood: The problem with porn*.

⁴² Grant Hilary Brenner, Four ways porn use causes problems.
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/experimentations/201803/4-ways-porn-use-causes-problems>

⁴³ Katie Szittner, *Study exposes secret world of porn addiction*. Sydney.edu. May 10, 2012.
<http://sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=9176> Accessed 6/14/15

PORNOGRAPHY AND SOCIETY

This section of the research titled “Pornography and Society” moves beyond the individual person and focuses on the negative consequences of pornography on the society, as a sociological unit.

a. Pornography and Posterity

Most persons are exposed to pornography early in their years. On the internet, they cross authority and are taught about sex and sexuality by people they do not know. They are also incited to contribute to it by posting naked pictures to one another. This is done with no understanding of the long-term consequences. It is contributing to the destruction of a generation deficient in what it means to build intimacy.⁴⁴

b. Pornography and Sexual Assault

Pornography reinforces the concept of physical domination of the man over the woman and can increase aggressive and violent behaviors against women⁴⁵. Studies show that young men repeatedly exposed to pornography are more likely to objectify women, and young women who view pornography are more likely to self-objectify and tolerate sexual harassment from men⁴⁶. Men who consume pornography are more likely to adopt rape myth ideology, which is that women cause rape or actually enjoy rape or sexual assault⁴⁷. There is strong evidence that exposure to violent pornography is associated with sexually aggressive behaviors in both adolescent and adult males⁴⁸. It is common for pornographic movies to express verbal and physical aggression as well as sexual acts that are overtly degrading to women⁴⁹.

⁴⁴ Foster B. J. *Four dangers of pornography*. <https://www.allprodad.com/4-dangers-of-pornography>.

⁴⁵ Zillman, D., Bryant, J., Effects of Prolonged Consumption of Pornography on Family Values. *Journal of Family Issues*, Vol. 9 No. 4, December 1988, pp. 518-544; Manning, Jill. The Impact Internet Pornography on Marriage and the Family: A Review of the Research. *Sexual Addiction and Compulsivity* 2006, 13:131-165.

⁴⁶ Flood, Michael. The Harms of Pornography Exposure Among Children and Young People. *Child Abuse Review*, 18, November 2, 2009.

⁴⁷ Flood, Michael. The Harms of Pornography Exposure Among Children and Young People. *Child Abuse Review*. 2009. 18:384-400.

⁴⁸ Ybarra, M., Mitchell, K., Hamburger, M., Diener-West, M., and Leaf, P. X-Rated Material and Perpetration of Sexually Aggressive Behavior Among Children and Adolescents: I There a Link? *Aggressive Behavior*. 2001, 37. 1-18.

⁴⁹ Bridges, A., Wosnitzer, R., E., Sun, C., and Liberman, R. Aggression and Sexual Behavior in Best-Selling Pornography Videos: A Content Analysis Update. *Violence Against Women* 16(10) 2010, pp. 1065-1086.

c. Pornography and infidelity

Men who are addicted to pornography and women who have a problem in relation to pornography are more likely to accept marital infidelity and cohabitation which ultimately destabilizes marriage and family life⁵⁰.

d. Pornography and divorce

In 2002, the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers reported that 56% of all divorces involved one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites.⁴³ Research also indicates that the chance of divorce has doubled for both men and women who use pornography. In a research conducted across a whole sample, the divorce rate was 6 percent for non-porn users and 11 percent for porn users⁵¹.

A 2003 research of 350 attorneys specializing in divorce revealed that a large number of divorce cases involved one person with compulsive pornography use⁵². Research also found that half of the 20-year-olds who began using pornography after marriage divorced. 28 percent of 30-year-olds who use pornography, and 12 percent of 40-year-olds who are addicted to pornography. By the age of 50, beginning pornography use did not significantly affect divorce rate⁵³. This research suggests that pornography use is at least an indicator of marital problems⁵⁴.

e. Pornography and Workforce

Nelson Company, in her research in February 2010, reveals that the number of people using computer in their places of work to visit pornographic websites was as high as 28%. And that the average visit to a pornography site from a work computer was about 13 minutes, with 70 percent of such visits occurring between 9 AM and 5 PM⁵⁵. During the month, the average worker was estimated to spend one hour and 38 minutes on such sites. If we leverage data extracted on March 30, 2012 from the Bureau of Labor Statistics which calculates average hourly earnings at \$23.23, and we multiply by one hour and 38 minutes, it would mean the loss of roughly \$38/month per employee. Multiply that by 12 months and a yearly loss of \$456 coming from every employee that views pornography. The number of U.S. employees reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as of March 30th, 2012 was 132

⁵⁰ Carroll, J., Padilla-Walker, L., Olson, C., Barry, C., Madsen, S., Generation XXX Pornography Acceptance and Use Among Emerging Adults. *Journal of Adolescent Research*. Vol. 23, No. 1. January 2008, pp. 6-30.

⁵¹ Perry and Schleifer, *Till Porn Do Us Part? A Longitudinal Examination of Pornography Use and Divorce*, conducted a longitudinal study of married individuals spanning from 2006 to 2014. 2018, Surveying 2,120 married adults.

⁵² Foster B. J. *Four dangers of pornography*

⁵³ Perry and Schleifer, *Till Porn Do Us Part? A Longitudinal Examination of Pornography Use and Divorce*.

⁵⁴ Grant Hilary Brenner, *Four ways porn use causes problems*.

⁵⁵ Cheryl Conner, *Who wastes the most time at work?*
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/cherylsnappconner/2013/09/07/who-wastes-the-most-time-at-work/#4a3ffdc66c39>

million. If we divide this by the 28% of employees who use a work computer to visit pornographic sites, up to 37 million employees view pornography in the workplace. Thus, if 37 million employees are viewing the average amount of pornography cited by the Nielsen Company, the annual productivity loss to companies is a staggering \$16.9 Billion dollars⁵⁶. The result thus, is a waste time and the creation of hazard in work places that can lead to complaints among co-workers, sexual harassment cases, and liability for employers⁵⁷.

EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

Deep down the hearts of many people, there are times when the desire to break the rules, to rebel, or to do something we know is wrong arises. At such moments, pornography often appears to be the answer. The real truth we have failed to tell ourselves is that our desire for pornography is because we are a broken people living in a broken world⁵⁸. Settling for the shallowness of pornography rather than human relationships is not without consequences on individuals and society as already studied. This brokenness is evident in the lives of people like Audrey Assad, NFL quarterback Josh McCown, and Kirk Franklin who have exposed their addiction to pornography, sought recovery, and are now voices speaking out for freedom. There are many friends and families coming forward and speaking the truth by admitting their struggles with pornography. Today, individuals' stories are being told everywhere as people take a stand for truth in the world against pornography. In response to these confessions, resources and programs for healing and accountability are spreading throughout the web and media, and action is being taken to overcome a world inundated with pornography⁵⁹.

To find true healing,

1. the first thing a person must do is to admit that he or she has a problem. This step is very important especially as we live in a world where allowance is made for justifying and tolerating almost everything we could think of.
2. The next thing is to destroy every offline pornographic material at your disposal. If you are fighting your addiction to pornography but are hanging on to that magazine or DVD then your "fight" is really just a masquerade.
3. The person must not take TV shows or movies that emphasize sexual situations for granted. These media entertainments will only make your struggle more difficult.

⁵⁶ Internet pornography by the numbers; a significant threat to society. In webroot: Smarter Cyber Security. . <https://www.webroot.com/us/en/resources/tips-articles/internet-pornography-by-the-numbers>

⁵⁷ Cheryl Conner, *Who wastes the most time at work?*

⁵⁸ Susan Merrill, *The Problem with Pornography*. <https://www.imom.com/the-problem-with-pornography/#.W6QirhC1bIU>.

⁵⁹ Taylor McGee, *The problem with pornography*. <https://www.restoreculture.com/the-problem-with-pornography>.

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4. Lastly, you may need to break the circle of pornography consumption. The desire to consume increases by consuming. Thus, the more you consume, the more you want to consume. To break out of this circle, the consumer must stop consuming.

The truth remains that pornography tells only half of our story as human beings. The human person is a composite of body and soul and is only complete when the two are integrated. This unity of the whole person is critical to understanding why pornography devalues people. Every human person has dignity and deserves to be known as a whole integrated person. But pornography devalues human persons by showing them as bodies or objects for use, rather than people with bodies and hearts that deserve to be known⁶⁰. The continuation or stopping of this devaluation is dependent on whether men and women are able to speak out. It is a situation that does not require neutrality, for neutrality can only help the spread of pornography rather than enhance human dignity.

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⁶⁰ Taylor McGee, *The problem with pornography*.

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