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# Adolescent Sexual Script and Pornography Consumption

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## **Abstract**

The Internet which emerged several decades ago has become a system with full of complexity both technically and socially. This study aims to determine the impact of pornography exposure on the internet through the approach of Sexual Script theory in order to find out the role of the environment and its relation to free sex behavior. Qualitative research approach using case study research design was applied in this research. Subjects 5 (five) adolescent were selected based on certain criteria which was based on theory or operational constructs according to the purpose of research, namely: 1) Teenagers of 18-21 years old, (2) Male or female, consisting of 4 (four) men and 1 (one) woman (3) Being able to access the internet. Semi structured interview was used as the method of collecting the data. Thematic analysis using coding from the transcripts of verbatimized interviews was used as the technique analysis. The research findings show that sex-browsing sites are inadvertently accessed by teenagers in the process of finding materials for doing homework by using words to search for information and images. Free internet access and inappropriate disclosure of information can have a negative impact on sexual behavior. The problems posed include social interaction with peers, sexual activity, and adolescent emotional development. The cultural environment provides information to the individual about sexuality. Individuals obtain different types of information about sexual meanings that include the objects, characteristics and quality of the cultural environment. The form and place of sexual behavior for dating can be found in boarding houses and hotels. The scripts of sex culture are learned through observation of the behavior of others, through all forms of mass media as well as through formal guidance in family schools, schools or social media. Interpersonal scripts are obtained through masturbation experience by viewing photos, video clips, movies and text. Source of information is obtained from online porn, namely both free and charged website Pornography can also be exchanged between peers, online forums, and online chat channels. Users of pornography will apply the script they learned in accordance with the pornography views consumed in the form of sexual behavior in their real life.

**Keywords:** free sex behavior; sexual script; pornography; adolescents

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# ADOLESCENT SEXUAL SCRIPT AND PORNOGRAPHY CONSUMPTION

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## Abstract

This study aims to determine the impact of pornography exposure on the internet through the approach of Sexual Script theory in order to find out the role of the environment and its relation to free sex behavior. Qualitative research approach using case study research design was applied in this research. Subjects five adolescent were selected based on certain criteria which was based on theory or operational constructs according to the purpose of research, namely: 1) Teenagers of 18-21 years old, (2) Male or female, (3) Being able to access the internet. Semi structured interview was used as the method of collecting the data. Thematic analysis using coding from the transcripts of verbatimized interviews was used as the technique analysis. The research findings show that sex-browsing sites are inadvertently accessed by teenagers in the process of finding materials for doing homework by using words to search for information and images. Free internet access and inappropriate disclosure of information can have a negative impact on sexual behavior. The problems posed include social interaction with peers, sexual activity, and adolescent emotional development. The cultural environment provides information to the individual about sexuality. Individuals obtain different types of information about sexual meanings that include the objects, characteristics and quality of the cultural environment. The form and place of sexual behavior for dating can be found in boarding houses and hotels. The scripts of sex culture are learned through observation of the behavior of others, through all forms of mass media as well as through formal guidance in family schools, schools or social media. Interpersonal scripts are obtained through masturbation experience by viewing photos, video clips, movies and text. Source of information is obtained from online porn, namely both free and charged website Pornography can also be exchanged between peers, online forums, and online chat channels. Users of pornography will apply the script they learned in accordance with the pornography views consumed in the form of sexual behavior in their real life.

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## **Introduction**

The Indonesian youth phenomenon is currently undergoing rapid social change from traditional society to modern society. This is accompanied by changes in the norms, values and lifestyle of adolescents. Teenagers who were strongly awakened by the family system, cultural customs, and traditional values, have experienced deterioration caused by rapid urbanization and industrialization. This is followed by a media revolution which is open to lifestyle diversity. Such information leads to adolescents' increasing vulnerability to various diseases, especially those related to sexual and reproductive health. Studies on adolescent sexual behavior attracted the attention of many parties. The results showed that most of adolescent sexual behavior today leads to risky sexual behavior. Many of the teenagers who do not realize that some experiences that seem exciting can even plunge themselves into risky sexual behavior.

Adolescence begins with physical, cognitive, and social changes that begin with the period of puberty. Adults are the subjects who are supposed to escort and guide the teens from the social complexity of their community. Choudhury (2010), say that adolescence is a period of cultural sensitivity while Crone & Dahl 2012, Peper & Dahl 2013 argue that the effects of puberty on the brain make adolescents very sensitive to their social environment. Adolescents go through a period of social reorientation in which peer co-operation becomes more important than family members (Larson & Richards 1991).

The development of teenage sexuality is basically not like a blank sheet, teenagers will find a source of information to meet his curiosity. According to them, talking about sexuality with parents, teachers and even friends makes them uncomfortable (Kendall, 2012; Moran, 2000). Sources of information about sexuality can be obtained from the internet that is more privacy and anonymous. Teenagers can hide their identity as they access information about sensitive sexuality (Barak & Fisher, 2001; Bond, Hefner, & Drogos, 2009; Cooper, 1998; Peter & Valkenburg, 2006; Valkenburg & Peter, 2008). The Internet which emerged several decades ago has become a system with full of complexity both technically and socially. It is like a gigantic but almost invisible universe that includes thousands of networks, millions of computers, and billions of users worldwide (Greenfield & Yan, 2006). The Internet has become an important part in romantic social life and teenagers' sexuality (Pascoe, 2011). The Internet is a publicly accessible worldwide network of interconnected computers that transmit information and services such as electronic mail, online chats, interlinked web pages and other documents from the World Wide Web.

The visualization or presentation of sexual activities in the form of photos, video clips, movies, comics and text on the internet may explicitly and potentially stimulate individuals. There is free and charged website in online pornography. Pornography can also be exchanged between peers, online forums and online chat channels (Schell, Martin, Hung & Rueda, 2007). Although the internet has a positive impact on the lives of modern society but it also raises various social issues concerning privacy, security, pornography, internet crime and virtual community (Greenfield & Yan, 2006). In most cases, sex sites are accidentally accessed during adolescence in the process of finding material for doing homework, by using words to search for information and images. Free internet access and unsuitable information exposure for certain ages may have a negative impact on adolescent development, and problems may arise in social interactions with peers, sexual activity and adolescent emotional development (Subrahmanyam et al., 2006).

Teenagers who get exposure to pornography will experience confusion because adolescents are still in the stage of development of sexuality. Adolescents' periods are the most vulnerable times of uncertainty about sexual beliefs and moral values. It was also found that 2343 adolescents who get explicit sexual material exposure on the internet will increase teenage uncertainty about sexuality (Peter & Valkenburg, 2008). Adolescents who are exposed to high levels of pornography have low levels of sexual confidence (Morrison et al., 2006). Furthermore, the subsequent impact is that there is a significant relationship between increasingly frequent accesses to pornography with feelings of loneliness, including severe depression (Ybarra & Mitchell, 2005). The results showed a significant increase in the number of adolescents who deliberately or

unintentionally obtained pornographic material online (Mitchell, Wolak, & Finkelhor, 2007; Wolak et al., 2007).

The literature review shows a significant increase in the volume of studies that examine Compulsive Internet Use (CIU) and to the adolescents who have compulsive sexual behaviors related to pornography and variations of country sites to such phenomena research, such as China (Fu, Chan, Wong, & Yip, 2010), Netherlands (van den Eijnden et al., 2010), United Kingdom (Gillespie, 2008), United States (Sussman, 2007), and Taiwan (Yen et al., 2009). It can be concluded that the impact of internet that contains pornographic content including compulsive, addictive and even criminal behavior is a global trend that is not only exist or isolated in a particular culture or region. Therefore, as the increasing use of internet among adolescents, it is important to understand that the exposure of pornography on this media affects systemically and specifically on the development of teenage sexuality.

Exposure to pornography to adolescents can be discussed through Bandura's Social Learning theory (Bandura, 1993), it focuses social learning as learning and imitation of specific behaviors gained from media content. This includes explicit sexual content, which typically accentuates relevant behaviors and can be sampled. Teenagers who get exposure to pornography will see, record and mime those, and then eventually it will lead to satisfaction. Satisfaction gained from pornographic content becomes the basis of the justification of sexual acts in the form of violence and oppression. Social script theory believes that people follow internal scripts that give meaning and direction to social interaction (Gagnon & Simon, 1973; Simon & Gagnon, 1986). Scripts can be viewed as normative references that define parameters for action lines in specific social contexts (Gecas & Libby, 1976). Social Script tells us, in other words, " what should or should not happen, how people should behave or should not behave in response to what is happening or not happening and what the consequences of a particular action should be " (Wright, 2011; see also Huesmann, 1986). Scripts are obtained through the observation of other people and also through the consumption of mass media.

### **Materials and Methods**

Qualitative research approach using case study research design was applied in this research. Subjects were selected based on certain criteria which was based on theory or operational constructs according to the purpose of research, namely: 1) Teenagers of 18-21 years old, (2) male or female, (3) being able to access the internet. The subjects of the study were five persons consisting of 4 men and 1 woman. Semi structured interview was used to collect the data. Data triangulation by interviewing was used to improve the research credibility. Significant other was to re- check the data from the subjects. In this case, the author used a close friend as the subject or as significant other to be a friend telling anything. Thematic analysis using coding from the transcripts of verbatimized interviews was applied as the research analysis technique. This technique consists of three steps: open coding, axial coding, selective coding.

### **Results and Discussion**

The research findings show that the ten subjects have ever accessed pornographic sites and sources to get pornographic views on the internet or have copied from his friends. In addition, they get addresses or sites related to pornography from social media. They also mention that the sites appear abruptly when they open the internet. The subjects are accustomed to discuss pornographic issues through chat, pictures or porn text messages with fellow teenagers. Perpetrators usually discuss the contents of porno movies that they usually get for free or charged. The first experience to watch pornographic shows are varied from primary, junior and senior high school. After viewing pornographic shows, subjects imagine scenes that have ever been seen. Pornographic shows make research subjects curious and want to try it with girlfriends, prostitutes or women who want to date with them. As teenagers gather, they will tell their friends about their experiences. At the time of free sex actors gather, they will be open to each other expressing the sensation or feeling they experience at the time of intercourse. Free sex doers feel so lustful during sexual intercourse and so proud in

sharing their experiences of sexual intercourse. The subjects who always change their couples commonly have the reason to show their manhood. Free sex behavior is made in boarding houses or hotels. It is assumed that sexual intercourse is a common thing for teenagers today. The surrounding which is close to the localization area makes it easy for teenagers to have free sex with prostitutes and friends in intimate relationship. Other researches find that there are some subjects who are addicted to internet with pornographic contents. The subject considers that the other teenagers will not appreciate those who only view the sites without having the real sexual intercourse; it is said as a common thing that will be underestimated. Furthermore, it is found that some female subject who have done masturbated since they were in the primary school argue that masturbation pleases them much, so that they are addicted to repeat. Subjects who experience in pornography sites said that they had seen various pornographic films. Pornographic films containing rape scenes to elderly or children and those with BDSM (Boundary, dominance, sadistic masochism) contents and torture are found in the pornography sites. There is a BDSM community whose members are much closed to the public. Then, one of the research subjects is infiltrated as the member of the community. The subjects who get used to watching BDSM-contented pornography admit that they cannot enjoy their sexual intercourse with their couples more. Imagination obtained from the movie is very much different from what they do with their spouses so that subjects choose to masturbate while watching porno film with BDSM contents.

From the above findings, then the authors agree that pornographic shows can affect teenagers' free sex behavior; consumption of pornography will be recorded in individuals who watch it. According to Social Learning Theory, adolescents can learn about the sexuality from observations described by various media however it can affect the sexual desire of teenagers (Schramm & Roberts, 1971). In detail, teenagers will observe the sexual behaviors that exist in pornographic films or videos; in addition teens also learn the context, motivations and intention behind the interaction as well as the consequences for those who interact in the behavior. Hidden messages in this content will be strong when teenagers become interested, curious and finally try to imitate the behavior they watch. Social script theory believes that people follow the internal script with meaning and direction to social interaction (Gagnon & Simon, 1973; Simon & Gagnon, 1986). Scripts can be viewed as normative references that define parameters for action lines in a particular social context (Gecas & Libby, 1976, p. 37). Social Script tells us, in other words, " what should or should not happen, how people should behave or should not behave in response to what is happening or not happening and what the consequences of a particular action should be " (Wright, 2011). Scripts are obtained through the observation of others and also through the consumption of mass media.

Frith and Kitzinger (2001) define Sexual Script as a message of culturally available messages that define what is 'considered' sex, how to recognize the sexual situation, and what to do in a sexual encounter. Given the inadequate sexual education provided at home and school and the growing pornographic culture (Dines, 2010; Paul, 2005), pornography has become an important Sexual Script or sexual guide for many young men and women (Sun, et al, 2016) . Pornographic shows are powerfully depicted, served with alternative ways of action or representing characters as the perpetrators in pornographic films. It is important to note that while viewing the same pornographic content, different individuals may or may not incorporate pornographic scripts into their sexual behavior, it depends on individual differences (such as gender, moral standards, apathy, or self-regulation) and situational differences. (such as time pressure, sexual arousal, or the availability of sexual partners, Wright, 2011). However, some aspects of pornography make combining Porn Sexual Scripts more likely than other media-based scripts. In particular, sexual arousal, masturbation, and orgasm that often follow the look of pornography will make the Sexual Script tendency to be activated and applied (Bandura, 1986; Wright, 2011). The pleasure felt by masturbation and orgasm towards pornography is very beneficial to the individual who experiences, thereby it will increase the similar behavior recur again in the future. This recurrent exposure to Sexual Script pornography, especially when combined with masturbation, is consistent

with Wright's (2011) hypothesis that leads to an increase in the application of Sexual Scripts. The addicted users of pornography can be said to have Porn Sexual Script that will be easily accessible in their memory. This is because exposure to pornographic media presents graphic representations such as detailed instructions and illustrations of sexual relations and thus it provides guidance for a full range of sexual behaviors. Users of pornography will apply the script they learned in accordance with the pornographic views consumed in the form of sexual behavior in their real life. The effect of pornographic exposure is not only on the knowledge of pornography but also on the affective aspect and even on the tendency to behave. Pornography can influence teenagers to perform such behavior, and it has changed the perception and even the teens' daily behavior both consciously and unconsciously, especially in terms of sexuality.

Sexual scripts are formed through three dimensions consisting of 'cultural scenarios', 'interpersonal scenarios', and 'intrapsychic scenarios'. From the findings of the study, it shows that the cultural scenario obtained from the internet and the environment may provide opportunities to engage in free sex behavior. Sex culture scripts are learned through observation of the behavior of others, through all forms of mass media, and through formal guidance in family schools, schools or social media. Interpersonal scripts are obtained through the experience of masturbation by viewing photos, video clips, movies, comics and text. Pornography can also be exchanged between peers, online forums and online chat channels. Scripts are developed because of the encounter leading to sexual behavior, communication that leads to erotic and sensual things, having satisfaction in accordance with his sexual behavior. These things are some ways to solve the success of the sexual experience with others. Intrapsychic Script causes everyone to behave sexually. A meaningful sexual pattern is a snippet of behavior generated by sexual arousal. From the preliminary findings of the study, it shows that teenagers who have Cultural Scripts or cultural sources in the form of living environment and cultural values considered that having free sex is common by teenagers, so that it is allowed to have sexual intercourse in boarding houses or hotels as well as to enter the localization area. Meanwhile, the teens with interpersonal script view the pornography by film, video, images or text messages obtained online in pornographic sites, ie free and some paid websites. Teenagers had better masturbate by looking at pornographic movies because it will make them satisfied in accordance with the imaginations that exist in the teenagers' minds. For intrapsychic script, teenagers have different experiences to experience the pleasure of sexual intercourse, there are teenagers who choose to have sexual intercourse after seeing pornography, it is also found some who are less satisfied of having sex because their spouses cannot satisfy them. Teenagers who have free sex behaviors will compare pairs that match their passions or preferences.

## **Conclusion**

The effect of pornography is an environmental condition that can be interpreted as how the exposure of pornography is a result received or experienced by teenagers gradually from pornographic shows that has a negative effect on the change in attitude or behavior of the learning process through imitation. Then, it will affect on the addiction and will tend to increase the need that will ultimately lead to misbehavior among teenagers in the daily relationship. Consumption of pornography is not only about the knowledge but also about the affective aspect and even the tendency to behave. Pornography can influence teenagers to perform sexual behavior and it has changed their perception and even their daily behavior both consciously and unconsciously, especially in terms of sexuality. Pornography can be a Sexual Script formed in the thoughts, feelings and motivations of teens. Therefore, based on the theory of Social Learning from Bandura, teenagers who often see or watch pornographic scenes through pornographic sites on the internet will be motivated to imitate these scenes. In addition, there is "a reward" of a sense of pleasure to repeat the sexual behavior. The more often accessing the porn sites means the increasing sexual behavior of teenagers. Users of pornography can be said to have Sexual Script Porn that will be easily accessible in their memory. This is because exposure to pornographic media presents graphic representations such as detailed instructions and illustrations of sexual



relations and thus it provides guidance for a full range of sexual behaviors. Users of pornography will apply the script they learned in accordance with the pornographic scenes consumed in the form of sexual behavior in their real life.

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