

Evaluation of Parents' Risk Perception on the Influence of Pornography on the Mental Development of Children in Enugu Metropolis

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Abstract

This study evaluated parents' risk perception of the influence of pornography on the mental development of children in Enugu metropolis. The objectives of the study include to: find out the extent to which parents in Enugu metropolis are aware of child pornography, find out the perception of parents in Enugu on the dangers of child pornography, ascertain the extent to which parents raise perception on child pornography influence their parental vigilant and ascertain the factors that lead to child pornography. The survey research method was adopted for the study. The sources of data used were the primary and secondary sources of data. The population of the study was 428,977 while the sample size of 400 was determined using the Taro Yamane's formula. The findings included that parents in Enugu metropolis are aware of child pornography to a large extent, parents perceive the dangers of child pornography in Enugu metropolis to include that pornography makes a child lose sleep, harms a child view of sex and harm a child's brain, establishing your right and authority as a parent, reducing incidence of child molestation and runaways and checking the friends of the children are the measures taken by parents on child pornography and the factors that lead to child pornography include lack of moral education, lack of internet safety and indecent dressing among children. The researchers recommended that parents should be observant on what their children watch both on television, phones, magazines etc because there are many pornographic contents in the media, parents should always bear in mind the dangers of child pornography and even let their children know about it via sex education, parents should establish their right as parents and also reduce the incidence of child molestation and parents should be aware of the factors that lead to child pornography and try to prevent it in their various homes. And it was concluded that parents' risk perception on pornography has significant influence on the mental development of children in Enugu metropolis.

INTRODUCTION

Children's use of pornography has a long history that extends back to the Victorian era. However, the rise of internet pornography has given new urgency to this issue, presumably because of the increased anonymity, affordability, and accessibility that it is said to provide. Children are routinely exposed to pornography. They encounter sexually explicit images while on the internet, some watch x-rated videos and, like adults they live in a culture increasingly saturated in sexualized representations. But what is pornography?

Pornography means sexually explicit media that are primarily intended to sexually arouse the audience' (Malamuth, 2018 p.118). 'Sexually explicit' materials show 'genitals and sexual activities in unconcealed ways' (Peter and Valkenburg, 2007:383). While there are disagreements over how to judge pornography's effects, pornography exposure can lead to emotional disturbance, sexual knowledge and liberalized attitudes, shifts in sexual behaviour, sexist and objectifying understandings.

Exposure to pornography is routine among children and young people, with a range of notable and often troubling effects. Particularly among younger children, exposure to pornography may be disturbing or upsetting. Exposure to pornography helps to sustain young people's adherence to sexist and unhealthy notions of sex and relationships. And, especially among boys and young men who are frequent consumers of pornography, including of more violent materials, consumption intensifies attitudes supportive of sexual coercion and increases their likelihood of perpetrating assault. While children and young people are sexual beings and deserve age-appropriate materials on sex and sexuality, pornography is a poor, and indeed dangerous sex educator, especially for children.

Legally speaking, there exists no definition of 'a child' in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. However, The United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the child defines a child as a person below the age of eighteen years except in the law applicable to the child, the age of majority is attained earlier. The proviso to this definition renders it nothing more than a suggestion. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child defined a child as 'every human being below the age of eighteen years.

Furthermore, children are in the developmental stage. The fact that children spend more time in front of a computer using the internet or watching x-rated videos or magazines showing naked women suggests their exposure to pornography and the possible impact of pornography on children's physical, social and mental development.

Mental development is an important aspect of growth, embracing the various mental abilities. It begins right from birth, and as the child develops with the passage of time his mental reactions also change. These reactions are very simple to start with, but in due course, they lead to complex mental activities. The child is born with all the sensory equipment that are needed for mental activity. By the age of three, he shows the ability to fulfill his needs in a selective manner. Therein lies his mental development. This is evident from other types of behaviour as well. He secures or tries to secure approval from his

parents and others for the things he likes or does. The child's curiosity is another characteristic of mental development at this stage.

He is curious to know about his immediate environment including the people. Another evidence is the child's tendency to make believe. He lives in a world of fantasy and personifies the objects that are around him. This is one of the reasons why he may be vulnerable to pornography. There is no evidence that being exposed to sexually explicit materials, or indeed any kind of representation, can change a child's overall sexual orientation, their attraction to one sex or the other (Allgeier and Allgeier, 1995), although some argue for example that exposure to child pornography can inspire a sexual interest in children (Russell and Purcell, 2005).

However, it is argued that pornography can influence children's attitudes towards and adoption of particular sexual behaviours (Thornburgh and Lin, 2002; Zillmann, 1989). Recently, some students of Chrisland school in Lagos state went to Dubai in United Arab Emirate, while they were in Dubai, there was an incidence of rape case involving a ten year old students which went viral on the social media. When, how and where did these children learnt all these activities from? Some people believe that due to the exposure of these children to pornographic contents, their attitudes towards sex became liberalized and they started experimenting with it. It is based on this background that this study will examine parents' risk perception of the influence of pornography on the mental development of children in Enugu metropolis.

Statement of the Problem

There are many problems facing parents in perceiving the influence of pornography on the mental development of children. Many parents experience feelings of embarrassment when charged to address sexual topics with their children, such feelings may lead to greater reluctance in addressing the more intimate dimensions of sexual involvement. Another challenge is that many parents are very busy to take note of what their children watch. In Nigeria today, it seems like many parents are very busy in their quest to raise money to take care of the family and because of that they don't have enough time to take note of what their children watch.

Furthermore, some of these children share pornographic pictures in schools that their parents are not aware of, and this may affect their mental development because they may start seeing sex as something they can experiment with. Some children especially those between 15 to 18 years have started using mobile phones in Nigeria or they may have access to it through their friends and because of the ease of accessibility, their parents may not have control of what they watch both on magazines and the internet. It is based on these anomalies that this study will evaluate parents' risk perception of the influence of pornography on the mental development of children in Enugu metropolis.

Research Questions

Based on the objectives of the study, the following research questions are raised

1. To what extent are parents in Enugu metropolis aware of child pornography?
2. What are the parents perception on the dangers of child pornography in Enugu metropolis?
3. What measures have been taken by parents on child pornography?

4. What are the factors that lead to child pornography?

Emotional and Psychological Harms Associated with Premature or Inadvertent Exposure of Children to Pornography

Children and adolescents may be shocked or disturbed by premature or inadvertent encounters with sexually explicit material *per se*. They may be at an age or developmental level where they are unaware of, inexperienced in, or uninterested in sexual activities. In a US survey, ten per cent of young people aged ten to 17 described themselves as very or extremely upset by unwanted exposure to pornography (Mitchell *et al.*, 2017). In an Australian survey, 53 per cent of young people aged 11 to 17 had experienced something on the Internet they thought was offensive or disgusting (Aisbett, 2018). Pornography dominated the list of content reported. The young people said that they felt 'sick', 'shocked', 'embarrassed', 'repulsed' and 'upset' (Aisbett, 2001).

While children and adolescents are not necessarily disturbed by unwanted exposure to sexually explicit depictions, a consistent minority do experience distress, as two American studies demonstrate. In a survey of 1500 youths, six per cent of ten to 17-year olds reported that accidentally viewing a sexually explicit image had been distressing to them (Thornburgh and Lin, 2019).

In another survey, 45 per cent of the 15 to 17-year olds who had stumbled across pornography were 'very' or 'somewhat' upset by it (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2015). Some children inadvertently exposed to Internet pornography are upset not by its content but by the potential reactions of their parents (Aisbett, 2001; Thornburgh and Lin, 2017).

Children's Acceptance and Adoption of Particular Sexual Practices, Relations, or Identities as a Result of Pornography

A second effect of exposure to pornography concerns children's acceptance and adoption of particular sexual practices, relations, or identities. It is possible that portrayals of the non-mainstream sexual practices identified above may incite, eroticize and give legitimacy to them. There is one version of this argument that I reject, the notion of the 'recruitment' of children into homosexuality. There is no evidence that being exposed to sexually explicit materials, or indeed any kind of representation, can change a person's overall sexual orientation, their attraction to one sex or the other (Allgeier and Allgeier, 1995), although some argue for example that exposure to child pornography can inspire a sexual interest in children (Russell and Purcell, 2005).

However, it is clear that pornography can influence users' attitudes towards and adoption of particular sexual behaviours (Thornburgh and Lin, 2018; Zillmann, 2019). Among young people, there is evidence at least of associations between pornography consumption and participation in sexual practices such as anal intercourse. Male-female anal intercourse became an almost mandatory inclusion in X-rated heterosexual videos in the 1990s (Jensen and Dines, 1998).

Five studies among Swedish young people find that young men who are regular consumers of pornography are more likely to have had anal intercourse with a girl, and to have tried to perform acts they have seen in pornography, and that girls who have seen pornography also are more likely to have anal intercourse (Tyden and Rogala, 2019). Pornography consumption may have shaped these young men's (and women's) sexual interests and behaviours, or perhaps both their pornography consumption and participation in anal sex represent a sexually adventurous or experimental orientation.

Sexual Knowledge, Liberalized Sexual Attitudes and Earlier Sexual Involvement

Regular and frequent exposure to sexual content in mainstream media produces greater sexual knowledge and more liberal sexual attitudes among children and young people, as a series of reviews document (APA, 2007; Huston *et al.*, 1998; Strasburger and Wilson, 2002; Thornburgh and Lin, 2002; Ward, 2003). Experimental studies document that children and young people exposed to sexual media content have greater sexual knowledge (about such topics as pregnancy, menstruation, homosexuality and prostitution) than control groups, and they are more accepting of pre-, extra- or non-marital sexual relations (Huston *et al.*, 1998). Correlational studies find associations between greater exposure to sexual content on television and the belief that one's peers are sexually active and a more favourable attitude towards recreational sex (Strasburger and Wilson, 2002). Similar if not greater effects are likely for pornography, given its explicit and decontextualized depictions of diverse sexual relations. For example, 15–18-year olds in a Swedish study who had ever watched a pornographic film were more likely than others to be less ashamed about masturbation and to see prostitution, pornography and sex without love as 'okay' (Johansson and Hammarén, 2007).

In experimental studies, young men (and to some extent women) exposed to large amounts of explicit sexual content often become more supportive of and less offended by such material (Thornburgh and Lin, 2002).

There is also evidence of associations between young people's actual sexual behaviour, including early sexual involvement, and the consumption of sexual media content, including pornography (Huston *et al.*, 1998; Strasburger and Wilson, 2002; Ward, 2003; Wingwood *et al.*, 2001). Johansson and Hammarén (2007) report that young pornography users are more likely than non-users also to have had sexual intercourse, masturbated, had same-sex sex and a one-night stand. A survey of 522 African-American females aged 14 to 18 found correlations between viewing X-rated movies and having multiple sex partners, having sex more frequently and testing positive for chlamydia (Wingwood, 2017).

Sexist, Sexually Objectifying and Inappropriately Sexualized Attitudes and Behaviours of Children

It is well documented that sexual media, particularly sexualized representations of girls and women, can encourage girls and young women to see themselves primarily in sexual terms, to equate their worth and appeal with narrow standards of physical attractiveness, and to see themselves as sexual objects—to focus on others' sexual interest in and judgment of them

rather than their own desires and interests (APA, 2007). Both correlational and experimental studies find that adolescents' and young adults' exposure to media which sexualises girls and women is associated with greater acceptance of stereotyped and sexist notions about gender and sexual roles, including notions of women as sexual objects (Frable *et al.*, 1997; Ward, 2002; Ward *et al.*, 2005; Ward and Friedman, 2006). Exposure also influences how men treat and respond to real women in subsequent interactions (APA, 2007).

Pornography is sexually explicit by definition, and much contemporary pornography offers a decontextualised portrayal of sexual behaviour, a relentless focus on female bodies, and sexist and callous depictions of women (Flood and Hamilton, 2003). Given this, pornography is likely to contribute to sexually objectifying understandings of and behaviours towards girls and women. Experimental studies among adults confirm such effects (APA, 2007).

Attitudes and Behaviours related to Sexual Violence Perpetration and Victimization

Perhaps the most troubling impact of pornography on children and young people is its influence on sexual violence. A wide range of studies on the effects of pornography have been conducted among young people aged 18 to 25, as well as older populations.

Across these, there is consistent and reliable evidence that exposure to pornography is related to male sexual aggression against women (Flood and Hamilton, 2003a). This association is strongest for violent pornography and still reliable for nonviolent pornography, particularly by frequent users (Malamuth, 2018).

In experimental studies, adults show significant strengthening of attitudes supportive of sexual aggression following exposure to pornography. The association between pornography and rape-supportive attitudes is evident as a result of exposure to both non-violent pornography (showing consenting sexual activity) and violent pornography, while the latter results in significantly greater increases in violence-supportive attitudes.

Exposure to sexually violent material increases male viewers' acceptance of rape myths and erodes their empathy for victims of violence (Allen *et al.*, 1995a). Adults also show an increase in behavioural aggression following exposure to pornography, including non-violent *or* violent depictions of sexual activity (but not nudity), with stronger effects for violent pornography (Allen *et al.*, 1995).

In studies of pornography use in everyday life, men who are high-frequency users of pornography and men who use 'hardcore', violent or rape pornography are more likely than others to report that they would rape or sexually harass a woman if they knew they could get away with it. And they are more likely to actually perpetrate sexual coercion and aggression (Malamuth, 2015). There is a circular relationship among some men between sexual violence and pornography: 'Men who are relatively high in risk for sexual aggression are more likely to be attracted to and aroused by sexually violent media . . . and may be more likely to be influenced by them' (Malamuth *et al.*, 2000).

While such findings cannot simply be extrapolated to children and young people, there is some evidence that high-frequency pornography use or consumption of violent pornography

is associated with sexually aggressive attitudes and behaviours among adolescent and older boys.

In a study of Canadian teenagers with an average age of 14, there was a correlation between boys' frequent consumption of pornography and their agreement with the idea that it is acceptable to hold a girl down and force her to have sex (Check, 1995). Among US boys and girls aged 11 to 16, greater exposure to R- and X-rated films was related to stronger acceptance of sexual harassment (Strouse *et al.*, 1994). Among Italian adolescents aged 14 to 19, there were associations between pornography use and sexually harassing a peer or forcing someone into sex (Bonino, 2016).

Turning to mainstream media, experimental studies among young adults find that males and females exposed to sexualized or objectifying content are more accepting of rape myths, violence-supportive and adversarial beliefs (Ward, 2016), while correlational studies among adolescents also show such associations (Cowan and Campbell, 1995; Kaestle *et al.*, 2007).

Perhaps even more troubling is the finding that growing numbers of adolescents are being convicted of possession of child pornography (Moultrie, 2006), with a New Zealand study among offenders finding that the largest group of internet traders of child pornography are aged 15 to 19 (Carr, 2004).

Exposure to pornography may increase children's and young people's own vulnerability to sexual abuse and exploitation. Some adult perpetrators use pornography as a deliberate strategy to undermine children's abilities to avoid, resist, or escape sexual abuse (Russell and Purcell, 2015). More generally, given that pornography encourages sexist and sexually objectifying attitudes among girls and women, it may increase their vulnerability to violence. For example, an Italian study found associations among adolescent girls between viewing pornographic films and being a victim of sexual violence (Bonino *et al.*, 2006), although the causal mechanisms are unclear.

Challenges Militating against Parents in Perceiving the Risk Involved in their Children's Exposure to Pornography

(a) Many of the child's concepts have meanings which are different from those of parents thus the parents may overlook them completely. For a child, 'doggie' may mean all small animals whereas to the adult, the concept of 'dog' is specific. The child's concepts are broad and more general rather than specific.

(b) The child's concepts are not formulated well enough for the child to be able to express them in words understandable to an adult.

(c) Many of children's concepts cannot be 'verbalized' by them on account of limited vocabulary.

Children's concepts of spatial relations, of distance and depth are vague and inadequate in the beginning. This is responsible for much of the awkwardness in young children, evident in their miscalculations of height and distance. Language development leading to the understanding of the words like on, in, below, above, up and down, helps them to understand spatial relations.

The development of time concept takes place, in the beginning in connection with need gratifications and routine. They understand what morning, evening and night mean in terms of feeding, eating and sleeping. By the age of five, they are able to distinguish between the present, past and future. How we measure time, they can understand only by ten or so. Teachers of mathematics need to know these facts which are the results of investigations. The concepts of number and quantity are first brought home to the minds of children by experiences in the home which convey to them the ideas of 'less' or 'more' or 'being heavy' or 'light'. According to Piaget children acquire concepts of number even before they are not able to count. They come earlier than those of weight. If home and school can provide concrete experiences with a variety of materials, these concepts are learned easily and in a natural manner. Scientific concepts with concern causal relations develop when children are presented a variety of problems and they explain or answer questions. These concepts leading to ability in deductive and inductive reasoning grow with advancing age.

Concepts of the self and social concepts of inter personal relations greatly influence the child's thinking and behaviour – a very important step in the mental development of children. To start with the concept of self means only physical identity of self. Gradually, the child differentiates himself from others. The child's social concepts are influenced by the nature of inter personal relationship at home, by his experiences of others in the neighbourhood, in the play-ground and by other social activities. Similarly, the child develops concepts of beauty or aesthetic concepts, through his contacts, his readings, associations, cultural values, his experiences of colour, sound and form, i.e., environmental influences. If the child lives in dirty, drab and colourless environment there is a likelihood that he develops wrong concepts of beauty of colour, form or sound. Training and education and models in the home play an important role in determination of the nature of such concepts.

Theoretical Framework

1. Protection Motivation Theory

Protection motivation theory (PMT; Rogers, 1975) claims that when people are exposed to distress appeal messages they tend to engage in two cognitive processes: threat appraisal and coping appraisal (Fry & Prentice-Dunn, 2006; Prentice-Dunn, McMath, & Cramer, 2009; Rogers & Prentice-Dunn, 1997). Individuals who engage in threat appraisal perceive the severity of and susceptibility to threat. Perceived severity refers to the extent to which one recognizes that the risk has severe negative consequences, whereas perceived susceptibility refers to the extent to which a person perceives that someone is vulnerable and likely to be affected by the threat. These perceptions of severity and susceptibility lead to adaptive responses.

Coping appraisal is related to response efficacy, which refers to a person's evaluation of the perceived capability of participating in a recommended behavior to prevent a threat. In addition, coping appraisal consists of parental ability to communicate with their children about pornography. Research has already shown that parenting style is associated with threat appraisal and coping appraisal. For instance, Hwang et al. (2017) found that authoritative parenting was significantly linked to perceived severity of children's smartphone addiction

and to response efficacy and self-efficacy; authoritarian parenting was significantly linked to susceptibility; and permissive parenting was significantly linked to susceptibility but negatively linked to self-efficacy.

Gender is also associated with threat appraisal and coping appraisal. Kim, Jeong, and Hwang (2012) found that gender was a significant predictor of severity, susceptibility, response efficacy, and self-efficacy in relation to respondents' proenvironmental behavioral intentions. PMT can explain parental mediation in relation to children's watching violent and sexual television shows; namely, parental mediation increased when parents perceived greater threat and efficacy of this kind of media use (Nathanson, Eveland, Park, & Paul, 2002). Hwang et al. (2017) found that parenting style and parental monitoring was mediated by susceptibility to addiction.

2. Fuzzy Trace Theory

The way we perceive risks strongly depends on how we mentally represent them. Fuzzy-trace theory addresses this issue and distinguishes between two kinds of representations: verbatim and gist (Reyna, 2008; Reyna & Brainerd, 1995). Verbatim representations encode the stimulus objectively—that is, as it actually happened.

The verbatim representation would encode the exact wording and numerical information from the statement. In contrast, gist representations are more fuzzy and encode the information subjectively, that is, they interpret the information. For instance, a risk reduction of 1 in 1,000 could be translated into a “small” effect. Although individuals have different gist representations due to experience, knowledge, and emotional reactions, they do not differ in their verbatim representations.

Moreover, in contrast to other dual-process approaches, fuzzy trace theory states that the two representations are encoded, stored, and retrieved in parallel rather than sequentially. Fuzzy-trace theory has been applied to a wide range of tasks in judgment and decision making and risk perception to explain framing effects, denominator neglect, and the role of emotions in the encoding of risk information (Reyna & Brainerd, 2011). Generally, findings suggest that people rely more heavily on gist than on verbatim representation. Fuzzy trace theory is related to this study because individuals like parents have different perceptions of risk based on the knowledge and emotional reactions they have towards the risk. Meaning that parents perceive risk of pornography based on the knowledge of the risk involved.

Empirical Review

Previous research has shown the importance of parental mediation, especially restrictive and active, in preventing risk behaviors online. Chang et al.'s (2015) survey of Taiwanese adolescents found that restrictive parental mediation contributed to reducing Internet addiction and cyberbullying.

In their U.S. survey, Khurana, Bleakley, Jordan, and Romer (2015) found that both parental monitoring and restrictions reduced victimization to cyberbullying. Lau and Yuen's (2013) review demonstrated studies that found restrictive strategies were associated with children's reduced risk behaviors online.

Fisher et al. (2009) found in their study that active mediation could change adolescents' beliefs and attitudes toward media content. Some studies point to the benefits of parents' communication with their children about pornography. Open, frequent, and direct communication about pornography between parents and children can serve as a preventive tool for adolescent pornography consumption (Tomić, Burić, & Štulhofer, 2018; Wolak et al., 2007).

Rasmussen, Ortiz, and White (2015) concluded that young adults whose parents had practiced active mediation about pornography during adolescence had significantly less positive attitudes toward pornography. Accordingly, negative attitudes toward watching pornography correlated with a decrease in young adults' pornography use. Previous research has found a relationship between parenting style and parental mediation (Hwang, Choi, Yum, & Jeong, 2017; Valcke, Bonte, De Wever, & Rots, 2010). Eastin, Greenberg, and Hofschire (2006) showed that parenting styles influenced parental mediation behaviors. Their results indicated that authoritative parents used restrictive mediation techniques (such as monitoring and technological blocking) to control home Internet more than authoritarian parents did. Hwang et al. (2017) found that authoritative parents were more engaged in active mediation and restrictive mediation in relation to smartphone use.

Research in this field has indicated the high frequency of pornography exposure (e.g., Mead, 2016; Zimbardo, Wilson, & Coulombe, 2016) and its emotional effect on children and adolescents (e.g., Lim, Carrotte, & Hellard, 2016; Owens, Behun, Manning, & Reid, 2012). Nevertheless, a recent study found that sex education via school educators has decreased (Padilla-Walker, 2018). Therefore, parents must be the formal prime source of sex education (Flores & Barroso, 2017). The following study examined parenting style (authoritarian, authoritative, or permissive) and gender, as well as their association with parental mediation strategies (restrictive, active, and co-use) in relation to children's pornography exposure.

According to Borca (2015), 95% of schools currently have Internet access; however, Valcke (2010) found that 91% of primary school children do most of their Internet surfing at home. In 2000, more than half the households in the U.S. had a home computer and 40% had access to the Internet and 50% of families with children have home Internet access (Lee, 2007). Other studies, related to Internet access found that 95% of students have personal computers at home, and 66% of those students surf the Internet every day (Borca, 2015). Children have access to the Internet almost everywhere they go and use it almost every day (Rideout, Foehr, & Roberts, 2010).

For example, there are multiple public buildings or businesses with free Wi-Fi, and almost all schools have Internet access. Although schools may limit the sites that can be accessed by students and teachers on school Internet servers (Tennessee Department of Education, 2019), this does not keep peers from spreading risky sites used outside of the school environment or prevent other types of risks. Due to rapid changes in technology, parents often fall behind their children in knowledge related to the Internet. Ninety-two percent of children, compared to 62% of parents, are comfortable using the Internet (Valcke, 2010).

The perception of a child's Internet knowledge can affect parent's view of the Internet. Valcke (2010) states that the "home guru" of the Internet is often the child. Sixty-one percent of female parents versus 38% of male parents perceive that their children are able to work the Internet completely on their own (Valcke, 2010). Sixty-six percent of parents agreed with their children (64%) that the child knows more about the Internet than the parent (Wang, 2005).

Several authors (Brock and Beazley, 1995; Stout and Rivara, 1989) have noted that while school-based sex education programs are effective in increasing students' knowledge about sexual topics, they are less effective in influencing students' attitudes and behaviours. Instead, the home has been cited as the ideal place for sexual education to influence attitudes and values and, therefore, behaviour (Brock and Beazley, 1995; Stout and Rivara, 1989). A survey research carried out by Sieswerda and Blekkenhorst (2006) showed how respondents were asked who has the primary responsibility for educating children about sex. Majority of the respondents (76%) believed that both parents together should be primarily responsible for educating children about sex. However, a substantial proportion, 22% of mothers and 10% of fathers believed that mothers should be the exclusive providers of sexual education. School accounted for only 2%, while friends, health care professionals, and the media did not register at all (Sieswerda and Blekkenhorst, 2006).

To put this in context, previous studies have suggested that mothers tend to provide most of the sexual education of their children, and are seen by adolescents to be more emotionally accessible, capable and knowledgeable about sexual issues (Rosenthal et al., 2001; Downie and Coates, 1999; DiIorio et al., 1999; King and Lorusso, 1997; Baldwin and Baranoski, 1990). These studies demonstrated that while parents may indicate knowledge and attitudes reflective of more equal gender responsibilities toward educating their children about sex, many still follow traditional parenting roles. The findings from the studies (Rosenthal et al., 2001; Downie and Coates, 1999; King and Lorusso, 1997) suggested that self-reports from parents about who has provided the education may not be reliable, but rather must be viewed as a matter of perception.

There appears to be a strong discrepancy between fathers' and mothers' impression about which parent is delivering sexual health education in the home (Sieswerda and Blekkenhorst, 2006).

Research Design

This study used survey research design. Ogutu (2012) posits that a survey research method is probably the best method available to social scientists who are interested in collecting original data for purposes of describing a population which is too large to observe directly.

Population of the Study

The population of a study refers to all the conceivable elements that make up a group. The researchers studied parents who are caretakers of children in Enugu metropolis. According to the 2006 census, the population of Parents in Enugu metropolis i.e married couples with

at least a child was 312, 345 and is projected to be 428, 977 in 2022 (National Bureau of Statistics). Therefore, the population of the study is 428,977

Determination of Sample Size

Although many other ways or techniques are employed in arriving at an appropriate sample size, the formula that has gained popularity is that of Taro Yamane's formula. Yamane (1964) formula was used to draw a sample of 400.

Sampling Techniques

The researchers will adopt the random sampling procedure which involves distributing copies of questionnaire randomly to the respondents. where every member of the population will have equal chance of being chosen from the population. In the random sampling procedure, everything is controlled by the probability and researchers cannot influence the choice of the members chosen for the study.

4.1.1 Research Question One: To what extent are parents in Enugu metropolis aware of child pornography?

Table 4.6: Distribution of respondents on whether their children spend more time on online pornography

	Frequenc y	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	154	41	41	41
A	113	30	30	71
UD	81	21	21	92
DA	20	4	4	96
SD	17	4	4	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.6 shows that 154 respondents representing 41 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that their children spend more time on online pornography, 113 respondents representing 30 percent agree, 81 respondents representing 21 percent were undecided, 17 respondents representing 4 percent disagree while 17 respondents representing 4 percent strongly disagree

Table 4.7: Distribution of respondents on whether their children watch movie late at night

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	132	35	35	35
	A	104	28	28	63
	UD	73	19	19	82
	DA	41	10	10	92
	SD	35	8	8	100.0
	Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.7 shows that 132 respondents representing 35 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that their children watch movie late at night, 104 respondents representing 28 percent agree, 73 respondents representing 19 percent were undecided, 41 respondents representing 10 percent disagree while 35 respondents representing 8 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.8: Distribution of respondents on whether their children like to see pornographic content on the mobile phone

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	SA	129	34	34	34
	A	114	30	30	64
	UD	71	18	18	82
	D	36	10	10	10
	SD	35	8	8	100.0
	Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.8 shows that 129 respondents representing 34 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that their children like to see pornographic content on the mobile phone, 114 respondents representing 30 percent agree, 71 respondents representing 18 percent were undecided, 38 respondents representing 10 percent disagree while 35 respondents representing 8 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.9: Distribution of respondents on whether their children watch pornographic magazines

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	136	36	36	36
A	102	27	27	63
UD	93	24	24	85
D	29	7	7	92
SD	25	6	8	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.9 shows that 136 respondents representing 34 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that their children watch pornographic magazines, 102 respondents representing 27 percent agree, 93 respondents representing 7 percent were undecided, 29 respondents representing 7 percent disagree while 25 respondents representing 6 percent strongly disagree.

Research Question Two: What are the parents' perception on the dangers of child pornography in Enugu metropolis?

Table 4.10: Distribution of respondents on whether pornography makes a child lose sleep and time

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
SA	126	38	38	38
A	114	30	30	60
UD	68	18	18	78
D	42	10	12	92
SD	35	8	8	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.10 shows that 126 respondents representing 38 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that pornography makes a child lose sleep and time, 114 respondents representing 30 percent agree, 68 respondents representing 18 percent were undecided, 42

respondents representing 10 percent disagree while 40 respondents representing 8 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.11: Distribution of respondents on whether pornography harms a child’s view of sex

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
SA	124	33	33	33
A	111	29	29	62
UD	66	17	17	79
D	48	12	12	91
SD	36	9	9	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.11 shows that 124 respondents representing 33 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that pornography harms a child’s view of sex, 111 respondents representing 29 percent agree, 66 respondents representing 17 percent were undecided, 48 respondents representing 12 percent disagree while 36 respondents representing 9 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.12: Distribution of respondents on whether pornography makes it difficult for a child to manage his/her emotions

Valid	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
SA	128	34	34	34
A	104	28	28	62
UD	77	20	20	82
D	39	9	9	92
SD	37	8	8	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.11 shows that 128 respondents representing 34 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that pornography makes it difficult for a child to manage his/her emotions, 104 respondents representing 28 percent agree, 77 respondents representing 20 percent were undecided, 39 respondents representing 9 percent disagree while 37 respondents representing 8 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.12: Distribution of respondents on whether pornography harms a child's brain

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	120	32	32	32
A	106	28	28	60
UD	68	17	17	77
D	46	12	12	89
SD	45	11	11	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.12 shows that 154 respondents representing 32 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that pornography harms a child brain, 106 respondents representing 28 percent agree, 68 respondents representing 17 percent were undecided, 46 respondents representing 12 percent disagree while 45 respondents representing 11 percent strongly disagree.

Research Question Three: What measures have been taken by parents on child pornography?

Table 4.13 Distribution of respondents on whether establishing your right and authority as a parent is a measure taken by parents on child pornography

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	155	41	41	41
A	112	30	30	71
UD	83	21	21	92
D	20	4	5	97
SD	15	3	3	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.13 shows that 155 respondents representing 41 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that establishing your right and authority as a parent is a measure taken by parents on child pornography, 112 respondents representing 30 percent agree, 83 respondents representing 21 percent were undecided, 20 respondents representing 4 percent disagree while 15 respondents representing 3 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.14: Distribution of respondents on whether reducing incidence of child molestation and runaways is a measure taken by parents on child pornography

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	132	35	35	35
A	103	28	28	63
UD	74	19	19	82
D	40	10	10	92
SD	35	8	8	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.14 shows that 132 respondents representing 35 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that reducing incidence of child molestation and runaways is a measure taken by parents on child pornography, 103 respondents representing 28 percent agree, 74 respondents representing 19 percent were undecided, 40 respondents representing 10 percent disagree while 35 respondents representing 8 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.15: Distribution of respondents on whether getting children involved in good activities is a measure taken by parents on child pornography

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	137	36	36	36
A	101	27	27	63
UD	92	24	24	87
D	28	7	7	94
SD	25	6	6	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.15 shows that 137 respondents representing 36 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that getting children involved in good activities is a measure taken by parents on child pornography, 101 respondents representing 27 percent agree, 92 respondents representing 24 percent were undecided, 28 respondents representing 7.1 percent disagree while 25 respondents representing 6.5 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.16: Distribution of respondents on whether checking the friends of your children is a measure taken by parents on child pornography

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	130	34	34	34
A	113	30	30	64
UD	72	18	18	81
D	35	9	9	92.
SD	35	9	9	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.16 shows that 130 respondents representing 34 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that checking the friends of your children is a measure taken by parents on child pornography, 113 respondents representing 30 percent agree, 72 respondents representing 18 percent were undecided, 35 respondents representing 9 percent disagree while 35 respondents representing 9 percent strongly disagree.

Research Question Four: What are the Factors that lead to Child pornography?

Table 4.17: Distribution of respondents on whether lack of moral education is a factor that leads to child pornography

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	127	38	38	38
A	113	30	30	68
UD	69	18	18	82
D	41	10	10	92
SD	35	8	8	100.0
Total	385	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.17 shows that 127 respondents representing 38 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that lack of moral education is a factor that leads to child pornography, 113 respondents representing 30 percent agree, 69 respondents representing 18 percent were undecided, 41 respondents representing 10 percent disagree while 35 respondents representing 8 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.18: Distribution of respondents on whether lack of internet safety education is a factor that leads to child pornography

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	125	33	33	33
A	110	29	29	62
UD	67	17	17	79
D	47	12	12	81
SD	36	9	9	100.0
Total	439	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.18 shows that 125 respondents representing 33 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that lack of internet safety education is a factor that leads to child pornography, 110 respondents representing 29 percent agree, 67 respondents representing 17 percent were undecided, 47 respondents representing 12 percent disagree while 36 respondents representing 9 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.19: Distribution of respondents on whether indecent dressing among children is a factor that leads to child pornography

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	129	32	32	32
A	103	28	28	60
UD	78	17	17	77
D	38	12	12	89
SD	37	11	11	100.0
Total	439	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.19 shows that 129 respondents representing 32 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that indecent dressing among children is a factor that leads to child pornography, 103 respondents representing 28 percent agree, 78 respondents representing 17 percent were undecided, 38 respondents representing 12 percent disagree while 37 respondents representing 11 percent strongly disagree.

Table 4.20 Distribution of respondents on whether lack of sex education is a factor that leads to child pornography

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid SA	121	32	32	32
A	105	28	28	60
UD	69	17	17	77
D	45	12	12	89
SD	45	11	11	100.0
Total	439	100.0	100.0	

Table 4.20 shows that 121 respondents representing 32 percent of the total respondents strongly agree that lack of sex education is a factor that leads to child pornography, 154 respondents representing 35.1 percent agree, 44 respondents representing 10.0 percent were undecided, 75 respondents representing 17.1 percent disagree while 26 respondents representing 5.9 percent strongly disagree.

Summary of Findings

1. Parents in Enugu metropolis are aware of child pornography to a large extent. The grand mean value (3.83) is greater than the average value (2.50)
2. Parents perceive the dangers of child pornography in Enugu metropolis to include that pornography makes a child lose sleep, harms a child view of sex and harm a child's brain. The grand mean (3.66) is greater than the average value (2.50).
3. Establishing your right and authority as a parent, reducing incidence of child molestation and runaways and checking the friends of the children are the measures taken by parents on child pornography. The grand mean 3.76 is greater than the average value 2.50.
4. The factors that lead to child pornography include lack of moral education, lack of internet safety and indecent dressing among children. The grand mean 3.868 is greater than 2.50.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were made based on the findings.

- 1) Parents should be observant on what their children watch both on television, phones, magazines etc because there are many pornographic contents in the media
- 2) Parents should always bear in mind the dangers of child pornography and even let their children know about it via sex education.
- 3) Parents should establish their right as parents and also reduce the incidence of child molestation

- 4) Parents should be aware of the factors that lead to child pornography and try to prevent it in their various homes.

Conclusion

Exposure to pornography is routine among children and young people, with a range of notable and often troubling effects. Particularly among younger children, exposure to pornography may be disturbing or upsetting. Exposure to pornography helps to sustain young people's adherence to sexist and unhealthy notions of sex and relationships and especially among boys and young men who are frequent consumers of pornography, including more violent materials, consumption intensifies attitudes supportive of sexual coercion and increases their likelihood of perpetrating assault. While children and young people are sexual beings and deserve age-appropriate materials on sex and sexuality, pornography is a poor, and indeed dangerous sex educator, especially for children. The research concludes that parents' risk perception on pornography has significant influence on the mental development of children.

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