Predictors of Adolescents' Pornography: Level of Sexual Behavior and Family Environment

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Abstract

Objective: To investigate on relationship among family environment, pornography and sexual behavior of adolescents. Pornography may start from early youth along with starting of sexual behavior. Therefore it is important that the role of family factors in pornography be studied.

Materials and methods: The sample includes 362 students who were chosen by Proportional Cluster method from the first grade of High School (14 and 15 years old). The research instruments were Schaefer's Family Environment Scales (FES), a researcher made Sexual Behaviors Scale (SBS), and Pornography Scale (PS).

Results: The results indicate that there is a positive significant relationship between sexual Behaviors Scale (SBS) and pornography and there is a positive significant relationship between levels of coldness in family relationship and adolescents' Freedom. Also the result of stepwise regression shows, in the first step, level of sexual behavior is the strongest variable that predicts .42 of variance of adolescent's pornography. In the second step, Coldness in family relationship determines .05 of variances of pornography of adolescents. Gender differentiates shows that boys' pornography is more than for girls.

Conclusion: Therefore coldness in family relationship is related with pornography and sexual behavior of adolescents.

Keywords: Sexual Behavior, Pornography, Coldness, Freedom, Family, And Adolescent

Introduction

Globalization of the media gradually has released audiences from the shackles of regulation governing the content and shape of the message. Intense competition of media for attract audiences caused many of youngsters to do pornography secretly and away from family supervision (1). Engle, Brown and Kenneavy (2) in a study on 1011 white and black youth, 14 years old, in schools southeastern United States showed that sexual content of all media can influence on teens. The findings revealed that media were effective about 13 percent at the start of sexual intimacy. They also were effective about 10.8 percent in sexual behaviors in the future. In addition, media were effective on intentions and decisions of teenagers for sexual activity. Youth National Organization (3) in a report about youth problems showed that Iranian adolescents with 11 to 15 years old identify their sexual difficulty as the second

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important problem. In addition, 15-year-old adolescences are 50 percent of users of pornography sites. A study in the United States showed that exposure to media often affects teenagers, if their parents did not have supervision and control on them (4). Livingstone (5) survey the parents of teens who had access to new media in London and showed that new media has changed behavior of patterns and gradually is changing the relationships between parents and teenagers. Some studies on relationships among Iranian families indicated that Iranian families have 30 minutes effective communication in a day. However some of others researchers believe that this communication is reduced to 15 minutes, daily (6). In the other hand, Sharifiye Daramady (7) argues that there is a relationship between family conflicts and behavioral disorders in girl students of middle schools. Also Skillinga, Doironb and Setoc (8) showed that conflicts between parents and teenagers can cause sexual problems in the adolescent. Adolescences that their parents had conflicts together have more sexual problems. These problems are more for the girls than boys. Royer, Keller and Heidrich (9) indicated that addiction of parents influence on their adolescent sexual behaviors. This relationship was stronger in the girls. They also show that less control of parents on their adolescent increase the teenagers' sexual behavior.

According to cultural differences, some of countries may impose some controls and restrictions on sexual sites. However always, there is possibility to access to the sexual sites. Therefore, the research questions are: 1) which one of the family environment variables can predict adolescent pornography? 2) Is there a relationship between sexual behavior and adolescent pornography? 3) Does gender have an effective role in the relationships of the research variables?

Materials and methods

Method of this study has been Descriptive and Correlation type. The statistical population consisted of 9142 students of third grade of middle school and first grade of high school (16-14 years old), in Zahedan. The sample was comprised of 354 subjects, 83 from high school of girls, and 81 from middle school of girls, 101 from high school of boys, and 89 from middle school of boys. So the sample included 164 girls and 190 boys. Method for sampling of "random cluster ratio" was used. For statistical analysis, Analysis of Variance, t test for independent

groups" and Stepwise Regression Analysis were used.

Instruments

Family Environment scale and two scales of pornography and sexual behavior were used as research instruments.

1) Family environment scale: Schafer's *Family Environment scale*, developed by Naghashian was used. This scale contains 77 items and contains the subscales of "Control - Freedom" and "warmness - coldness" in family relationship. Yaqub Khani Ghiasvandi (10) reported reliability of the subscales of "Control - Freedom" by using the Cornbach coefficient alpha as .73 and by using retest as .74. These reliabilities for the "warmness - coldness", respectively, were .92 and .80. In the present research the reliabilities by using Cornbach coefficient alpha were .74 for the "Control - Freedom" and .91 for the "warmness - coldness".

2) Sexual behavior scale: This scale is researcher made with 17 items. It contains the components of sexual intimacy, sexual dreams, ogle, masturbation, and homosexual. The content and face validity obtained by using of 5 educational experts. In a pilot implementation on 50 subjects, reliability of sexual behavior scale by using Cronbach's alpha coefficient was .80.

3) Pornography scale: This scale is made by researcher with 12 items. It has components of watching pictures and sexual movies, sexual chat, and sexual joke through the various media. In a pilot implementation on 50 subjects, reliability of Pornography scale by using Cronbach's alpha coefficient was .89.

Results

The results are presented according the research questions.

1) Which one of the family environment variables and Sexual behavior can predict adolescent Pornography?

For the first question, the Pearson correlation method was used that the result are in the below table.

Table 1 show that there are positive correlations among the research variables and these relationships are significant ($P \leq .01$). Therefore the Regression Analysis was conducted that its results are shown below.

In table 2 is shown that the strongest variable that inter in the prediction model in the first step is the

coolness relations between parents and adolescents. This variable has predicted .05 of pornography's variances, lonely. In the second step, both the variable of "freedom" and variable of "coldness", together, predicted .07 of pornography's variances. F of changes shows that these predictions are significant at P ≤ .01. The β (Beta) coefficient is 3.44 for the coldness and 2.83 for the Freedom. The t value also shows that the β coefficients are significant at P≤ .01.

Table 1: Correlation matrix of research variables

Variables Family environment	1	2	3	4
Pornography	1			
Sexual behavior	**.65	1		
Freedom	**.21	**.11	1	
Coldness	** .23	** .22	** .32	1

**P ≤ .01   N=362

According to standardized β, the regression equation is as: $Y_{Pornography} = .19_{coldness} + .15_{freedom}$

Table 2: summarized the stepwise regression model

Model	Variables	R	Adjusted R^2	F Change	std. β	t
1	Coldness	23	.05	**20.73 (1,360)	.23	**4.55
2	Coldness +	27	.07	**8.73 (1,359)	.19	**3.44
	Freedom				.15	**2.83

Predicted variable: Pornography   **P ≤ .01   N=362

Durbin-Watson =1.9

2) Is there a relationship between sexual behavior and adolescent pornography?

Results of statistical method of Person correlation are shown in Table 1. As the results showed there is a positive and significant relationship between sexual behavior and adolescents' pornography (r = .65; P ≤ .01).

3) Does gender have an effective role in the relationships of the research variables?

Gender differences are studied by comparing the means of pornography in among the boys and girls. The t test is used for this comparison that its results are presented in the following table.

As it is seen in the table 3, the findings show that there is a significant difference between levels of pornography of girls and boys. The mean of

pornography in boys was higher than girls. Pornography means for girls and boys was respectively 19.81 and 23 .27. These means are out of minimum 12 and maximum 48 (the median of 18) of questionnaire.

Table 3: differences of pornography according to gender

Variable	gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t
Pornography	girls	164	19.81	6.79	** -
	boys	190	23.27	8.35	4.3

**P ≤ .01   *P ≤ .05

In addition, for study roles of gender on the results of correlation, in each calculation, the subjects of one of genders were omitted and the following results were obtained.

Table 4: correlation between the variables with controlling of gender

Variables	gender	Pornography
Coldness	girls	**.27
	boys	*.19
Freedom	girls	* .16
	boys	* .20

**P ≤ .01   *P ≤ .05

As the results show, correlation between coldness and pornography is stranger in girls than in boys; but freedom and pornography have a stranger relation in boys group.

Discussion

Study on sexual issues, has always been assessed from two perspectives. One of these views convinced that sexual affairs are among the most privative and personal affairs and not only it is forbidden to investigate but also investigation cause some disadvantages such as interruption of human rights. The other view believes that these behaviors influence on the society. Accordingly, in our local society also there is a little scientific and empirical investigation in sexual issues. However, in this study the second approach is hold to investigate on relationship of the family environment variables and Sexual behavior with adolescent pornography.

Results show that, coldness and Freedom in family environment are related with adolescents' pornography. These finding supports research of Skillings, Doironb and Setoc (8) indicated that

conflicts between parents and teenagers can cause sexual problems in the adolescent. That is, conflicts cause coldness in relationship of family members and this situation can lead to compensative reactions such as pornography and sexual activities. Also, the present result agrees with Livingstone (5) that argues the new media gradually is changing the relationships between parents and teenagers.

The finding also approved that sexual behavior is correlated highly with pornography in adolescents. That is, it can be claimed that the sexual behavior of adolescents might be affected by their pornography or vice versa. Therefore it can be inferred that reading and seeing pictures and sexual movies through various media causes the incidence of adolescent sexual behavior. This result support the results of a research conducted in the United States by Braun-Courville and Rojas (11), reports that sexually explicit web sites related to adolescent sexual behaviors. Also, Brown and Witherspoon (12) showed relationship between mass media and adolescents' health; and Engle, Brown and Kenneavy (2) indicated that sexual content of all media can influence on teens.

In addition, the results indicate that there is a significant difference between boys and girls in pornography. That is, pornography is more in boys than in girls. This difference could be due to differences in parental behavior toward controlling of boys and girls in the investigated society.

The results also show that relationship between coldness of family environment and pornography is stranger in girls than in boys. This result may be due to emotional trait of girls. On the other hand, freedom of family environment had a stranger relationship with pornography in boys group. This result may be caused by the local culture that some of boys have less limited to access to sexual media.

Conclusions

The results indicated that coldness and freedom relationships among family members predict the adolescents' pornography. Also, increasing in pornography is associated with increasing the teenagers' sexual behaviors. The results show that pornography is higher in boys than girls. Therefore, since the students' pornography effected by family relationships; it is important to regulate these relationships by education of adolescents and by purposive workshops for the parents.

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