

Internet Pornography Seeking Among Senior High Schools in the Tema Metropolis

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Abstract

The study sought to investigate internet pornography and its seeking among senior high school students. It generally considered the knowledge that students have about internet pornography, the factors that promote internet pornography seeking among them and the prevalence of its seeking among these students. A sample of 357 was drawn, made up of 189 males and 168 females using convenience sampling from 4 schools in the Tema Metropolis. A questionnaire was used for the data collection and descriptive statistics was used for data analyses. The study revealed that senior high school students in the Tema Metropolis are exposed to internet pornography and it was more prevalent among males in the Metropolis than females. The study therefore recommended that Parents, schools and religious organisations should openly and honestly talk about sexual issues and answer questions adolescents ask pertaining to their sexuality.

Keywords: internet pornography, factors, prevalence, students and senior high school.

1. Introduction

Internet accessibility has increased over the years. Estimates worldwide suggest that up to 90% or more youth between 12 and 18 years have access to the internet (Michele, Ybarra & Kimberly, 2005). Concerns have been raised that this increased accessibility may lead to a rise in pornography seeking among children and adolescents, with potentially serious consequences for child and adolescent sexual development (Flood, 2007).

According to Malamuth (1993), pornography is any sexually explicit material designed to arouse its audience sexually. As such, it includes sexual content ranging from nudity to explicit sexual activity with sexual content involving violence or extreme sexual practices (Bryant, 2009). To West (2003), pornography seeks to stimulate sexual attraction to the image of a woman, uses strong visual senses of men to promote lust but promises the unreal and promotes false expectations of relationships.

The internet, aided by technology-induced anonymity has popularized the sex business more than any other means of advertisement. With unlimited access to a variety of websites, you can sit in the comfort of your home and have all you want (Sackson, 1996).

According to Weiss (as cited in Chetty & Basson, 2006), the number of pornographic web pages jumped from 14 million in 1998 to 260 million in 2003; an almost 2000% increase in just 5 years, with over 4.2 million adult-oriented sites. More than 80% of adolescents using e-mails receive inappropriate messages and 47% receive pornographic spam on a daily basis. A majority of adult-oriented sites display adult content on the first page, which anyone could see and nearly two-thirds have no warning or indication of the adult nature of the site.

As the internet gains increasing status in the lives of adolescents, researchers have begun investigating into the influence that the internet environment may be having on adolescent development (Finkelhor, Mitchell & Wolak, 2000). Questions have been raised about the contribution of pornography to deviant sexual behaviour, including sexual assault, negative attitudes towards women, and the acceptance of deviant or aggressive sexual behaviour among peer. Results received are mixed. Some investigators are arguing for clear and consistent effects of exposure to pornography and subsequent sexually aggressive attitudes and behaviours while others describe null or inconclusive findings (Malamuth, Addison & Koss, 2000).

1.1 Statement of the problem

There have been growing incidents of pregnancy and contracting of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS among unmarried teenagers (Ojo & Fasuuba, 2005). Studies in Cote D'Ivoire, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Nigeria confirmed that young women in their teens and early 20s had highest prevalence rates in sexual activities (Briggs, 1995) which can be linked to the increase in internet pornography. The story is no different in Ghana. Due to modernization caused by education, exposure and acculturation through importation of various foreign cultures, which are alien to the Ghanaian culture, adolescent's sexual behaviour in Ghana is seriously going through transformation and internet pornography cannot be left unmentioned. A study by Ayiku (as cited in Chetty & Basson, 2006), among the Internet cafes in Accra indicated that young people between ages 12 and 17 years get exposed to internet pornography. He noted that most of them told him that they use their pocket money to pay for the browsing time and normally visit the cafes during break and after school hours.

It also appears that little research has been done in Ghana to find out the prevalence of internet seeking

among adolescents. This study therefore seeks to focus on the knowledge that SHS students have about internet pornography. Factors that promote internet pornography seeking among SHS students and the prevalence of internet pornography seeking among male and female students in SHS. Hence the need for this study in the Tema Metropolis since industrialization and development seems to be happening at a quick rate there.

1.2 Purpose of the study

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the attitude of Senior High School (SHS) students towards internet pornography in the Tema Metropolis. This study specifically examined the:

1. knowledge that SHS students have about internet pornography.
2. factors that promote internet pornography seeking among SHS students.
3. prevalence of internet pornography seeking among male and female students.

1.3 Research Questions

The following research questions were investigated:

1. What is the knowledge students have about internet pornography?
2. What are the factors that promote internet pornography seeking amongst SHS students?
3. What is the prevalence of internet pornography seeking among males and females in SHS?

1.4. Significance of the study

The findings of this study would inform the community, educational authorities, parents, clergymen, teachers and other important stakeholders in Ghana about internet pornography and its impact on the adolescent's sexual development. In addition, this study would make parents, aware of the factors that encourage adolescents to seek out internet pornography and help find solutions to these problems. It would also further encourage them to create an atmosphere where sex and its related issues can be discussed without any fear.

The study would encourage schools to come up with programmes and activities that would create an atmosphere for discussions of sex and its related issues. Educational authorities would be given relevant suggestions as well as observed evidence that may be useful in enriching programmes regarding the adolescents and their sexuality. It would also give them a general picture of the prevalence of internet pornography seeking in the Tema Metropolis and the consequences it would have on the country if measures are not put in place to reduce its exposure to the adolescents.

1.4 Delimitation of the study

The study was committed strictly to finding out internet pornography seeking among SHS students. Furthermore, the study was restricted to only internet pornography without considering other means by which pornography can be exposed to adolescents.

2. Methodology

The study seeks to find out internet pornography seeking among Senior High Schools in the Tema Metropolis. This section discusses the research design, population of the study, sample size, data collection instrument, the procedure for data collection and the data analysis plans and procedures.

2.1 Research Design

The study was a descriptive survey. This was appropriate for the study because this research design specifies the nature of a given phenomenon. Fraenkel and Wallen (2000) opined that in descriptive research, accurate description of activities, objects, processes and persons is the objective.

2.2 Population

The target population size was 8191 made up of a combination of 4211 males and 3980 females. However, the accessible population from which the sample was drawn was 5207 made up of 2757 boys and 2450 girls. The accessible population was made up of two public, two private and the only boarding school in the metropolis namely: Chemu Senior High School, Our Lady of Mercy Senior High School, Exacam Senior High School, First Afternoon shift Senior High school and Tema Senior High School respectively.

2.3 Sampling and Sampling procedure

From the accessible population, a sample 357 based on Krejcie and Morgan's table of sample size (as cited in Hill, 1998) was drawn. From the table it was proposed that for a population size of 5,000 a sample size of 357 is representative enough for the study. A sample of 189 males and 168 females was obtained using the quota sampling and the convenience sampling was used in the selection of samples of males and females from each school.

2.4 Instrumentation

Researchers-developed questionnaire was made and was administered by us to ensure 100% return. According to Kerlinger (1973), the questionnaire is widely used for collecting data in educational research because it is very effective for securing factual information about practices and conditions of which the respondents are presumed to have knowledge. It is also used for inquiring into the opinion and attitudes of subjects is reached.

2.5 Pre-testing

Pre - testing is a small-scale version or trial run done in preparation for the major study (Polit, Beck & Hungler, 2001). Baker (1994) also found that a sample size of 10-20% of the population size for the actual study is reasonable for participant to consider enrollment. The advantage of conducting a pre - test is that it gives advance warning regarding weakness in a proposed study. These include where research protocols might be followed or whether proposed methods or instrument are inappropriate or too complicated (Simon, 2011). The questionnaire was pre-tested in the University Practice Senior High School (UPSHS) in the Central Region. Thirty students were conveniently selected. The selection of the above school was due to common characteristics that UPSHS shares with the schools actually selected for the study in terms of their socio – economic background, mixed nature and the blend of day and boarding residency. The reliability coefficient of the instrument using Cronbach's alpha was obtained and used for the study.

2.6 Data Collection Procedure

An introductory letter from the Department of Educational Foundations, University of Cape Coast was obtained to undertake the study in the schools. This was forwarded to the heads of the schools to obtain permission to have this exercise. I went to a school at a time.

The various classes were met together at a time and the sensitive nature of the topic explained to them. The sample was drawn from those who voluntary stayed using the lottery method. Confidentiality was assured and they were invited to seek for clarification on the questionnaire anytime they needed. The instrument was collected right after it was answered. The procedure was followed in all the schools visited for the collection of data for the purpose of this study.

2.7 Data Analysis

The data gathered for the study was scored and analyzed statistically using the Statistical Product and Service Solutions (SPSS) software version 16. The main statistical tool that was used in analyzing the data was simple percentages and frequencies.

Section A, which dealt with the personal data was analyzed using the percentages and frequencies. Research Questions 1 to 3 were analyzed using simple percentages and frequencies. In scoring the questionnaire, each item was given a code number to facilitate identification. The items on the 3-point Likert scale questionnaire, weighed as follows: Agree = 3, Uncertain = 2, Disagree = 1.

2.8 Ethical Consideration

According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2006), ethical behaviour is conforming to the standards and conduct of a given profession or group. Researchers are therefore required to strike a balance between the demands placed on them as professional scientists in pursuit of the truth, and their subject's right and values potential threatened by the research (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2007).

With this in mind, letters seeking the permission of the various heads of the institutions were sent and, on their approval, the study was conducted. The respondents were made aware of the title of the study and what it seeks to achieve and were given options to be part of the study or withdraw from it. Demographic data required did not include their names or the names of their schools. The respondents were also assured of confidentiality.

3. Results and Discussion

Results and discussions were done according to research questions.

3.1 Research Question 1: What is the knowledge students have about internet pornography?

Table 1. Students knowledge about internet pornography

Statement	Sex	Agree		Uncertain		Disagree		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Internet Pornography (I.P.):									
Shows moving pictures of sexual intercourse to cause sexual arousal.	M	178	94.2	3	1.6	8	4.2	189	100
	F	159	94.6	4	2.5	5	2.9	168	100
Shows the pictures of naked men and women to cause sexual arousal.	M	174	92.1	9	4.8	6	3.2	189	100
	F	147	87.5	12	7.1	9	4.8	168	100
Makes it difficult to know the roles of males and females.	M	59	31.2	45	23.5	85	50.0	189	100
	F	42	25.0	54	32.1	72	42.9	168	100
Gives good education about sex.	M	61	17.1	16	4.5	112	31.4	189	100
	F	34	9.5	17	4.8	117	32.8	168	100
Makes one more sexually active.	M	117	61.9	19	10.1	53	28.0	189	100
	F	107	63.7	14	8.3	47	28.0	168	100
Encourages risky sexual behaviours e.g. anal sex, oral sex, etc.	M	171	90.4	6	3.2	12	6.3	189	100
	F	157	93.5	5	2.9	6	3.6	168	100
Increases desire for sexual intercourse.	M	164	86.8	12	6.3	13	7.7	189	100
	F	148	88.1	14	8.3	6	3.6	168	100
Causes adolescents to make sexual advances on sexually weak ones.	M	87	46.0	55	29.1	47	24.9	189	100
	F	87	51.8	52	31	29	17.2	168	100
Encourages aggressive sexual behaviours.	M	146	77.2	11	5.8	32	17.0	189	100
	F	134	79.8	16	9.5	18	10.7	168	100
Encourages adolescents to masturbate.	M	154	81.4	9	4.8	26	13.8	189	100
	F	137	79.8	14	8.3	20	11.9	168	100

Table 1 illustrate the knowledge respondents have about internet pornography and other crucial effects internet pornography has on the adolescent. Among the males, 178 representing 94.2% know internet pornography to be that which shows moving pictures of males and females having sexual intercourse to cause sexual arousal. The second highest option chosen was the idea that internet pornography shows pictures of males and females having sexual intercourse with this 174 representing 92.1% agreed. The third highest option was the fact that internet pornography causes adolescents to engage in risky sexual behaviours here, 171 representing 90.4% agreed. Interestingly, 59 representing 31.2% had the view that internet pornography makes it difficult to know the roles of males and females as they grow into adulthood.

With the females, 159 representing 94.6% had the notion that internet pornography shows moving pictures of sexual intercourse to cause sexual arousal. The next highest option chosen was the view that internet pornography encourages risky sexual behaviours. With this, 157 representing 93.5% opted for it. One hundred and forty-eight representing 88.1% indicated that internet pornography causes increase in desire for sexual intercourse and only 42 representing 25% had the view that internet pornography makes it difficult to know the roles of males and females as they grow into adulthood.

From the table, it was obvious that adolescent males and females in the Tema Metropolis are exposed to internet pornography. From the definition of Peter and Valkenburg (2009) pornographic or sexually explicit material are contents “that depicts sexual activities in unconcealed ways, often with close-ups with aroused genitals and of oral, anal, or vaginal penetration” (p. 408) and Braun-Courville and Rojas (2009) also confirmed it to be sexually explicit websites that shows clear pictures of nudity or people having sex, or a movie or audio that describes people having sex” (p. 157). This confirms that the presence of the internet in Ghana is encouraging the proliferation of this message.

The increase in percentage of exposure to internet pornography among students in the Tema Metropolis may perhaps be because of curiosity and also increased hormonal activities that cause them to find out possible ways to release these tensions. Freud (1953) in his theory stated that the genital stage which is the adolescent stage comes with maturation of external and internal sexual organs and a strong desire to resolve sexual tension which demands a sexual object. Rice (1999) opined that at this stage, adolescents become interested in sexual experimentation with others, part by a desire for sexual stimulation and release; and part by need for love, affection, intimacy and acceptance from another person. With this, adolescents are found comparing ideas about sex with those of others and spend a lot of time talking about sex jokes and exchanging sex literature.

Even though the Ghanaian culture does not allow adolescents to indulge in sex and its issues as a result of the consequences associated with it, it has become imperative from this study for change to take place. This is because if deaf ears are turned to the plight of adolescents in matters in this regard, they would fish out their own answers from the internet and this would have effect not only on them but the country as a whole.

The analysis also gave an important indication that both the male and female students in the Tema

Metropolis acknowledged that internet pornography causes them to engage in risky sexual behaviours. According to Reid et al. (2011), internet pornography creates or elicits sexual feelings or thoughts, contains explicit images or descriptions of sexual acts involving the genitals such as vaginal or anal intercourse, oral sex, masturbation, bestiality, etc. This indication might probably be because they might have realized that after engaging themselves in watching these sexually explicit materials, they found themselves involved in those acts whenever they had any sexual interaction.

This confirms Bandura's (1973) Social Learning Theory. He stated that learning takes place through observing the behaviours of others and by imitating that pattern and Freud (1953) in his Theory of Personality also stated that the unconscious is the portion of the mind where impulses, fantasy and primary process reside out of awareness and further went on to say that the unconscious can be inferred to from behaviour. This therefore implies that the adolescent exposed to internet pornography sometimes consciously learn these behaviours and at the same time unconsciously pick up some of these behaviours which can only be inferred to when the action is performed. This confirms the study of Kraus and Russell (2008). They stated that "the internet often promotes and sells sexually explicit material which acts as an accelerant for earlier reported ages of first oral and sexual intercourse.

In line with this, Braun- Courville and Rojas (2009) in their study also indicated that those who use sexually explicit material are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviours such as anal sex, sex with multiple partners and sex using drugs or alcohol. Alexy et al. (2009) also revealed that adolescents with predisposition for aggression after getting exposed to sexually explicit materials are more likely to engage in coerced vaginal penetration and forced sexual acts such as oral or digital penetration to sexually aggressive remarks (obscenities) and to engage in sex with animals.

The analysis interestingly showed that most of the adolescents did not have any idea that internet pornography affects their sexual identity and this makes it very worrisome. According to Erickson (1968), for communities to function properly, men and women must be willing to assume their proper sex roles. Hence sexual polarization is very necessary. Kavanagh (1997) also indicated that exposure to healthy sexual norms and attitudes during this critical period which is the adolescent stage can result in the individual developing a healthy sexual orientation.

The Ghanaian society has a unique sexual orientation for its male and female. The role that a male is the head of the house and he sees to provides all the needs of his household and the female as the "manager" of the home making sure that everything is done and well taken care of. Internet pornography in contrast gives a depiction contrary to what the Ghanaian society wants to instill in its adolescents. It only shows that males are in control of every woman and can do anything with them and females are subject to men, only good for sexual intercourse. This has proven to be true by the study of Brown and L'Engle (2009). In their study, they indicated that male dominance and female submission are gender roles that are reinforced through sexually explicit material. Their study revealed that increased exposure to sexually explicit material increased the likelihood that adolescents, regardless of gender, would view women as sex objects that is reducing them to their sexual appeal in terms of their outer appearance and their body parts.

In line with this, Peter and Valkenburg (2009) also stated that "such notions also entail a strong concern with women's sexual activities as a main criterion of their attractiveness and focus on women as sexual playthings that are eager to fulfil male sexual desires. Peter and Valkenburg (2009) further suggested that viewing women as sex objects was related to increased frequency in the consumption of sexually explicit materials.

3.2 Research Question2: What are the factors that promote internet pornography seeking among students.

Table 2: Factors that promote internet pornography seeking among Senior High School students

Statement	sex	Agree		Uncertain		Disagree		Total	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No.	%
I watch Internet Pornography :									
Intentionally to masturbate.	M	38	20.1	21	14.3	124	65.6	189	100
	F	22	13.1	20	11.9	126	75.0	168	100
Out of curiosity.	M	97	51.3	21	11.1	71	37.6	189	100
	F	81	48.2	16	9.5	71	42.3	189	100
Because it is acceptable.	M	15	8.0	11	5.8	163	86.2	189	100
	F	9	5.4	6	3.6	153	91.0	168	100
To perform sex better.	M	64	33.9	25	13.2	100	52.9	189	100
	F	21	12.5	11	6.5	136	81.0	168	100
To have sexual satisfaction.	M	52	27.5	21	12.5	116	69.0	189	100
	F	19	11.4	12	7.1	137	81.5	168	100
Because of peer influence.	M	79	41.8	17	9.0	93	49.2	189	100
	F	53	31.5	10	6.0	105	62.5	168	100
When I am bored.	M	46	24.3	33	17.5	110	58.2	189	100
	F	29	17.3	21	12.5	118	70.3	168	100
To vary my sexual activities.	M	85	45.0	15	7.9	89	47.1	189	100
	F	50	29.8	16	9.5	102	60.7	168	100
To improve my sexual relationship.	M	61	32.3	27	16.1	101	60.1	189	100
	F	31	18.5	17	10.1	18	12.0	168	100

From the responses received in table 2, it was realized generally that the factors that promote internet pornography seeking were the same for both genders but different in order of importance. Among the males, the factor that was profound was the fact that they watch internet pornography out of curiosity with this, 97 representing 51.3% agreed. The second factor found was the fact that they watch internet pornography to vary their sexual activities and this factor saw 85 representing 45% agreeing to it. The third factor found was because of peer influence. Here, 79 representing 41.8% of the males agreed. The least of these factors was the fact that watching internet pornography is acceptable. With this also 15 representing 8% agreed to it.

For the females, the factor that was prominent in promising was the fact that they seek internet pornography out of curiosity and 81 representing 48.2% agreed to this. The second highest factor was because of peer influence. With this 53 representing 31.5% agreed. The third prevalent factor was the fact that they want to vary their sexual activities. In relation to this, 50 representing 29.8% agreed. The least of the factors chosen among the females was the fact that watching internet pornography is acceptable. Nine representing 2.5% of the females agreed to it.

From the results obtained, curiosity was found to be the major factor that promotes internet pornography seeking among male and female adolescents. This might probably be attributed to the development the adolescent is going through at this stage in life and also the desire to know what can help them release their sexual tension. According to Sabina et al. (2008), exposure to sexually explicit material is a normal experience among adolescents who are following traditional developmental paths regarding sexual curiosity. This was confirmed by Ybarra and Mitchell (2005).

It is important to note that the finding of this study contradicted the study of Wallmyr and Welin (2006). They stated that curiosity remained a key factor for female adolescents than males but this study showed that both males and females in the Tema Metropolis sought for internet pornography out of curiosity. This contradiction can probably be attributed to cultural differences in various countries. It can therefore imply that what would be acceptable in Ghana would not be acceptable elsewhere. It can also mean that because Ghanaians hide sex and its issues, adolescents are always in search for it.

The second highest factor chosen by the males and the third for the females was that adolescents watch internet pornography to vary their sexual activities. This presumes that some adolescents intentionally watch internet pornography to imitate what they see and practice it, confirming the theory of Bandura (1973). He stated that learning takes place when there is observation and imitation of a particular behaviour. A study by Haggstrom-Nordin et al. (2005) suggested that adolescents learn sexual behaviours from observing the behaviours depicted in sexually explicit materials. Lo and Wei (2005) confirmed this in their study with 2,001 Taiwanese adolescents. They found that exposure to sexually explicit material increased the likelihood that adolescents will accept and engage in sexual permissive behaviours altering the personality of the adolescent.

The difference between the males having an increasing number of them watching internet pornography to vary their sexual activities than the females can probably be because of the way both males and females are

brought up to see their sexuality in Ghana. From childhood, males are encouraged to touch their genitals in the process of urinating and in the process of growth realise how exciting it is when it is being held while the females are encouraged to protect their genitals. This therefore I believe have impact on the females as they grow into adolescents.

This would therefore be in line with Freud's (1953) submission that sexual desire in females have been historically repressed than in males for the inhibition to sexuality (shame, disgust, etc.) were developed earlier and more intensely in girls than in boys. He further stated that during adolescence, the aim of the male sexuality is manifest by the desire to produce sexual products, accompanied by physical pleasure and that of the females as the desire for physical satisfaction and release of sexual tension without discharge of sexual products.

The third highest factor found was because of peer influence and this was the second for the females. Peers have been found to have a strong influence during the adolescent stage some for recognition and others for fame. According to Muuss (1988), in the microsystem, as the child grows into adolescent, the influence of peers increases providing a powerful social reward in terms of acceptance, popularity, friendship and status. They have also been found to exert negative influence encouraging, drug use, theft, irresponsible sexual life including exposure to internet pornography etc. According to Wolak et al. (2007), research has proven that high rate of deliberate online exposure occurs when young males use the internet at a friend's house.

From the analysis the least of the factors the promote internet pornography chosen for both male and female respondents was the fact that watching internet pornography was an acceptable thing to do at this stage in life. With most of the students disagreeing to this, I probably want to assume that this may perhaps be as a result of the culture and beliefs of the various societies, religious affiliation and the rules and regulation of the society that has being transferred to the adolescents from childhood but out of curiosity, sexual gratification, peer influence, etc. they engage themselves in internet pornographic seeking.

This finding contradicted most researches conducted. According to Lofgren – Martenson and Mansson (2010), the cultural context surrounding pornography use have been significantly normalized in recent years having shifted from something regarded shameful to and morally reprehensible to something socially accepted (p. 576). In a study by Carrol et al. (2008), they found that 67% of males and 49% of females agreed that viewing sexually explicit material was an acceptable way to express one's sexuality. This contradiction might be as a result of cultural differences.

3.3 Research Question 3: What is the prevalence of internet pornography seeking among male and female students

Table 3: Prevalence of Internet Pornography seeking among Male and Female Students

Statement	sex	Agree		Uncertain		Disagree		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
I see ladies as sex objects as a result of I.P.	M	74	39.2	20	5.6	95	26.6	189	100
	F	50	14.0	30	8.4	88	24.6	168	100
I feel that it is good to have more sexual partners.	M	31	16.4	9	2.5	149	41.7	189	100
	F	5	1.4	4	1.1	159	44.5	189	100
I enjoy watching I.P.	M	43	12.0	14	3.9	132	37.0	189	100
	F	14	3.9	7	2.0	147	41.2	168	100
I see nothing wrong with having sex violently.	M	32	9.0	16	4.5	141	39.5	189	100
	F	5	1.4	7	2.0	156	43.7	168	100
It is good for males to have sex with males and females with females.	M	16	4.5	7	2.0	166	46.5	189	100
	F	3	0.8	3	0.8	162	45.4	168	100
I get embarrassed when I watch I.P.	M	125	66.1	23	12.2	41	21.7	189	100
	F	124	73.8	21	12.5	23	13.7	168	100
I have no particular reaction when I watch I.P.	M	61	17.1	16	4.5	112	31.4	189	100
	F	34	9.5	17	4.8	117	32.8	168	100

From Table 3, comparing the number of males and females that have their attitudes altered as a result of exposure to internet pornography, it can be realized that males had the highest number as compared to the females. This makes it evident to conclude that the prevalence rate of internet pornography seeking among adolescents happens more among males than females. Ybarra and Mitchel (2005) in their study confirmed that male adolescents rather than females view pornography at a greater rate. A survey by Thompson (2007) has also revealed in a study among Canadian adolescents that 33% of males reported very high usage as compared to 8% of females. In line with this, Wallmyr and Welin (2006) posited that both solitary and group use of pornography was more commonly reported by male adolescents than females.

4. Summary and Conclusion

From the findings of the study conducted, the following conclusions were drawn:

1. Adolescents in the Tema Metropolis have knowledge about internet pornography. Indicating that these adolescents are exposed to internet pornography.
 2. The adolescents in the Tema Metropolis were oblivious of the effect that internet pornography has on their sexual identity. Implying that many who get exposed to internet pornography might probably have their sexual identity altered.
 3. Curiosity was a major factor that causes adolescents in the Tema Metropolis to engage in internet pornography. Connoting that most of the adolescents in the metropolis have questions to ask concerning sex and its related issues.
 4. Adolescents in the Tema Metropolis know that watching internet pornography was not acceptable yet they engage in it anyway.
 5. Internet pornography seeking was more prevalent among males in the Tema Metropolis than females. Pointing out that males were found to be more involved in internet pornography seeking than females in the Tema Metropolis.
- This should be a wake up call to all stakeholders of education to rise up and fight this menace as its effect would affect the development of the country.

5. Recommendations

From the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Parents should openly and honestly talk about sexual issues and answer questions adolescents ask pertaining to their sexuality. Sex should not be looked at with indignation; neither should it be a forbidden in our Ghanaian homes, rather issues related to it should be welcomed.
2. A course on sex and its related issues should be designed by curriculum makers and included in the curriculum to help in the dissemination of this information.
3. Guidance and Counselling coordinators, teachers, religious groups and parents should be educated on the adolescent stage by Educational psychologist through workshops and television programmes so that they would know how crucial this stage is, to appreciate and use the appropriate ways to draw their attention to their sexuality.

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