

EFFECTS ON THE EXPOSURE OF PORNOGRAPHY AMONG CHILDREN AT RISK IN CAMARIN CALOOCAN CITY

ABSTRACT

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This study addresses the increasing concern of early exposure to online pornography among children, particularly in at-risk communities such as Camarin, Caloocan City. With the widespread accessibility of digital media, children are more vulnerable to inappropriate content, which may negatively affect their psychological development, body image, social behavior, and sexual awareness. Grounded in Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, the study explores the various environmental systems that influence a child's development. It aims to determine the extent of pornography exposure and assess the effectiveness of preventive measures such as parental controls and digital literacy education to recommend proactive solutions for protecting children. This research employed a quantitative descriptive research design to examine the effects of pornography exposure on children at risk. Thirty parents were selected through purposive sampling, based on their capacity to provide meaningful insights into the issue. Data were collected using structured and validated survey questionnaires, which included both close- and open-ended questions to ensure comprehensive and unbiased responses. The findings revealed that the majority of respondents were married women aged 51 and above, with educational attainment ranging from high school to college. A high overall weighted mean of 3.66 indicated strong agreement that parental measures—such as the use of content filters, monitoring online activity, and open communication—are effective in reducing children's exposure to pornography. Additionally, a weighted mean of 3.79 showed that educating children on safe internet practices and engaging in candid conversations about online risks were strongly supported by respondents as crucial preventive strategies. The study confirms the considerable risk that digital exposure poses to children in marginalized communities. Although parents acknowledge the value of monitoring and education, they face challenges such as low technological literacy and discomfort in discussing sensitive topics. The proposed solutions include educational campaigns, tech-based monitoring tools, and broader community involvement, emphasizing a shared responsibility among parents, educators, developers, and policymakers. Anchored in ecological theory, the study promotes a multi-layered approach combining technology, awareness, and community action to effectively safeguard children from harmful online content.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

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