

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
INTERNET MEDIA EXPOSURE AND
SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AMONG
YOUNG PEOPLE IN SURAKARTA:
YEAR TWO ENGLISH STUDENTS
OF FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS SEBELAS MARET
SURAKARTA¹**

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Chinedu Cletus Agbo¹

Abstract

Internet technology nowadays shows a quick progress, and internet media increase their number of users on each day. Social networking, which is one of the main indicators of the internet technology era, attracts people of all ages while the virtual world goes beyond the real life via the applications it offers. Especially young people show an intense interest in internet which is an extension of the media technology. Internet media exposure is increasing both in Indonesia nay Surakarta and all around the world. This study aims to determine the Relationship between Internet Exposure and Sexual Behaviour among young people in Surakarta, and to make suggestions on the prevention of the harmful sexual behavioural effects to the exposure while stating the current work carried out on the subject in Indonesia. Explanatory quantitative cum survey type research model is used in the study, and Internet. In this study, the exposure factor of the Internet Status Scale is used as a data collection tool to measure level of sexual behaviour among young people. The study is conducted on 20 students between the ages of 19-21 with a finding that there is no significant gender difference in internet media exposure even though frequency of exposure and visits had impact on sexual behavior as results showed. Internet Exposure level shows a dramatic increase also in the case of daily time spent on the Internet. The study also provides suggestions on possible actions to prevent harmful sexual behaviour from the exposure.

Keywords: Internet Media Exposure, Sexual Behaviour, Relationship, Young people..

¹ Sociology Postgraduate Programme of Universitas Sebelas Maret
¹ nedjayson@gmail.com

Abstrak

Internet jaman sekarang menunjukkan perkembangan yang cepat, dan media internet meningkatkan jumlah pengguna mereka setiap hari. Jaringan sosial, yang merupakan salah satu indikator utama dari era teknologi internet, menarik orang dari segala usia sementara dunia maya melampaui kehidupan melalui aplikasi itu menawarkan. Khususnya generasi muda menunjukkan minat yang intens di internet yang merupakan perpanjangan dari media teknologi. Eksposur media internet meningkat di Indonesia nay Surakarta maupun di seluruh dunia. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menentukan hubungan antara eksposur Internet dan perilaku seksual antara orang-orang muda di Surakarta, dan untuk membuat saran pencegahan efek perilaku seksual berbahaya untuk paparan sambil menyatakan saat ini pekerjaan yang dilakukan keluar pada subjek di Indonesia. Penjelasan kuantitatif cum survei jenis penelitian model digunakan dalam penelitian, dan Internet. Dalam studi ini, faktor paparan Internet Status skala digunakan sebagai data koleksi alat untuk mengukur tingkat perilaku seksual antara orang-orang muda. Kajian dilakukan terhadap 20 siswa berusia antara 19-21 dengan menemukan bahwa tidak ada perbedaan signifikan gender dalam eksposur media internet meskipun frekuensi eksposur dan kunjungan memiliki dampak pada perilaku seksual sebagai hasil menunjukkan. Tingkat pemaparan Internet menunjukkan peningkatan dramatis juga dalam kasus sehari-hari waktu yang dihabiskan di Internet. Studi juga menyediakan saran mungkin tindakan untuk mencegah perilaku seksual yang berbahaya dari eksposur.

Kata kunci: Paparan Media Internet, Perilaku Seksual, Hubungan, Orang-orang Muda

INTRODUCTION

Generally, the proportion of young people exposed to pornographic materials through the internet in Indonesia is increasing. However, the relationship of the exposure with their sexual behaviour has not been fully explored. This research therefore explored the correlation of internet exposure on the sexual behaviour of young persons between the ages 19-21 among the year two students of English Language Department, Faculty of Education, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia. The key concern about the health of young people is the extent to which they have access to resources that promote their development. This is strongly linked to early concerns about the way children and teenagers (Finkelhor ,2000:234-235) use the Internet which is suspected to have negative side-effects like going into commercial sex work.

This has made intentional or accidental viewing of pornographic materials online to be on the increase. Although empirical data about Internet pornography and its impact on the life of the teeming youth and children in Indonesia are not readily available, the fact that 32% of Internet users in Indonesia are children and young people of age range 7 to 30 years is an important fact that is worthy of note. Fears are rife in some sectors about the possible negative consequences obnoxious and uncensored Internet contents will have on the psychosocial well-being of varying categories of users and especially young people in Indonesia .Several studies have been done on the use of Internet in Asia including that of Dewi Nur (2010:45-47) who studied use of the Internet by students of the University of Singapore. His study revealed that 77% of the respondents had used Internet. Arjalo (2012:80-81) studied Internet accessibility by first year Architectural students of Airlangga University, Surabaya, Indonesia and found that 60% of the respondents were actively exposed to the Internet.

Aryo Agung and Laras Salli found that 58% of the medical and dental students in their final year at the Binus University, Indonesia whom they studied had used the Internet. Given that so many adolescents are spending so much time on the Internet, it is important that awareness of the impact of its contents on adolescent behaviour, well-being, and development be made known. According to the prediction of social learning theory, teens exposed to certain unconventional behaviours can adopt and internalize such behaviours as conventional ones. Despite the rising level of Internet usage particularly among young people in Indonesia nay Surakarta, few studies have examined the correlational effects that internet sites with explicit sexual contents may have especially on the sexual inclination and behaviour of young persons. This study therefore was carried out to determine the relationship between Internet exposure on sexual behaviour of young people among year two students of English Department, Faculty of Education, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta, in the central Java district of Indonesia. Surakarta as Central Java's cultural capital is considered representative of Javanese Culture.

Javanese ethnic in the past were well known for holding Muslim traditional values strictly. However, studies of Shaluhayah, and Suryoputro (2007: 59-76) reveal that youth in Central Java nowadays enjoy a much more liberal environment. Youth sexual attitudes and behaviour are becoming more permissive (Ford, Shaluhayah, and Suryoputro (2007: 59-76) Shaluhayah, 2006; Winarno, 2008 :300-301) 18% of males and 6% of females of Central Java's youth had engaged in premarital sexual intercourse (Ford, Shaluhayah, and Suryoputro (2007: 59-76) Winarno, 2008. Even Fajar, N et al (2017) analysing speech acts therein the film *Sex and the City* touched on this. This is a concern since adolescents are in an exploratory phase of life; they do not plan their sexual experiences and often are not well prepared or informed about sexual practices. Most people would agree that parents and children should be able to talk about sex, sexuality, and relationships in a convenient atmosphere.

However, in practice, parents are often reluctant to talk to their children about sex (Strasburger, 2006: 1427-1431). That's why, in the absence of other suitable sources for seeking information, media helps to fill information gaps for young people, providing information about topics that parents and schools are not discussing (Strasburger, 2006: 1427-1431). Compared to developed societies like USA and Europe, (Family Safe Media 2006), South East Asian economies are in the developing phase when it comes to internet use, with user penetrations typically at the lower end of the scale. Despite highly penetrated internet markets to be found in Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia, of Asia's estimated 450 million internet users in early 2007, only about 65 million were to be found in South East Asia. In other words, South East Asia had around 14% of the internet user population of the region at the time. As well as other South East Asia countries, the numbers of internet subscribers in Indonesia are limited. In Indonesia, there were about 20 million people (9%) accessing internet (Research&Market 2007) whilst in Central Java specifically Surakarta, internet is more widely used nowadays especially when it penetrates schools. Out of about 40 colleges and universities in Surakarta, approximately 25% of them are already connected to the internet. The

existence of internet has become controversial because it's a source of promise and source of concern (Thornburgh and Lin 2002: 480).

RESEARCH METHOD

The type of research is Explanatory Quantitative Research. This is a type of research which is an attempt to connect ideas to understand cause and effect, meaning that researchers like this author wants to explain what is going on. The location and time of the research were namely, English Department, Faculty of Education, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta, Central Java and the time for this research is between September and October, 2017 respectively. The research population is all 20 students of English Department, Faculty of Education, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta. And the sampling technique is census because the number is all the students, and again it is less than 30.

This method is reliable and with high rate of accuracy, even though it could be tiresome. On the other hand, the source of data consists of some data obtained by the researcher through data collection techniques. Source of the data used in this research are (a: Primary data--- obtained through direct interviews with respondents using a structured questionnaire. And (b: Secondary data source as complementary of primary source, that is in the form of document, archive and library study both from print media and internet media.

DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUE

By using questionnaire via survey and observation, this research data was collected. A pretested self-administered semi-structured questionnaire which contained questions on overall activity and practices related to Internet exposure, pornography exposure and sexual behaviour change after exposure was used for data collection. Each interview started with an introduction and overview of the research including the objectives of the study. The respondents were told not to write any name on the self-administered questionnaire. The questions were translated from English to Bahasa Indonesia for easier understanding. Respondents were encouraged to

ask questions on what they do not understand in the questionnaire. Explanations were given to respondents as required to aid their understanding of unfamiliar terms. The questionnaires were retrieved back from each respondent immediately after completion and they were reviewed for completeness.

Table 2.1 shows respondents data for internet exposure

RESPONDENT	PAPARAN INTERNET								TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	5	5	5	4	4	3	4	5	35
2	4	3	5	5	4	4	4	5	34
3	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	36
4	3	4	3	3	3	5	3	4	28
5	3	2	4	4	3	3	2	3	24
6	2	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	34
7	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	31
8	3	4	4	3	5	4	5	4	32
9	4	2	5	4	4	3	4	5	31
10	5	5	5	4	5	3	4	4	35
11	3	3	4	2	4	5	4	5	30
12	3	3	3	5	4	4	3	3	28
13	4	4	3	4	3	2	3	2	25
14	5	5	5	5	4	3	4	3	34
15	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4	32
16	5	4	4	3	2	3	4	5	30
17	3	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	26
18	4	5	4	4	3	5	4	3	32
19	5	4	3	5	2	3	4	5	31
20	3	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	30

Table 2.2 shows respondents data for sexual behaviour

RESPOND	PERILAKU SEKSUAL ANAK								TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	5	5	4	5	4	4	4	3	34
2	4	3	5	3	4	4	4	5	32
3	4	3	5	5	4	4	4	5	34
4	3	4	3	3	3	5	2	4	27
5	3	2	4	4	3	3	3	3	25
6	3	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	35
7	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	31
8	3	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	33
9	4	3	5	4	4	3	4	5	32
10	5	4	5	4	5	3	4	4	34
11	3	3	3	2	4	5	4	5	29
12	3	3	3	5	4	4	3	3	28
13	4	4	3	3	3	2	3	2	24
14	5	5	5	4	4	3	4	3	33
15	4	3	5	3	3	5	4	4	31
16	5	4	4	3	2	3	3	5	29
17	3	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	26
18	4	5	4	4	3	5	4	2	31
19	5	4	3	5	2	3	4	4	30
20	3	3	4	5	4	3	5	4	31

DATA VALIDITY

Administered copies of the questionnaire were edited and coded with the aid of a coding guide. Coded data were entered into a computer for analysis using the IBM/Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 15.0. Summary statistics such as means, median and standard deviations were used to summarize quantitative variables. Association between categorical variables was tested using the Chi square test. Analysis was done to identify significant predictors of two dependent variables: action taken on experiencing pornographic material and reported change in sexual behaviour. The significance level is 0.00

Table 2.3: Data Validity

Number	r count	r table	Note
1	0.378	0.444	Not Valid
2	0.499	0.444	Valid
3	0.713	0.444	Valid
4	0.399	0.444	Not Valid
5	0.497	0.444	Valid
6	0.13	0.444	Not Valid
7	0.749	0.444	Valid
8	0.512	0.444	Valid

From the Validity table, it shows that numbers 1,4 and 6 are not valid and so are non inclusive.

DATA ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE

Data analysis conducted after collecting data in the form of questionnaires from all respondents. Activities in data analysis include: data tabulation and that is categorized based on variables, presented data from each variable, and performed calculations to test the hypothesis that has been proposed and to answer the formulation of the problem.

In quantitative research, there are various statistical techniques that can be used especially for hypothesis testing. Data analysis technique used in this research is Pearson technique.

Hypothesis in this research: There is a significant relationship between Internet Media exposure and young people's sexual behaviour.

The SPSS correlation terms are as follows: For the correlation coefficient or measure the degree of relationship based on the provisions Sugiyono (2010: 231)

2.4 Reliability of the data

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	r Table
Internet Exposure	0,504	0,444
Sexual Behaviour	0,445	0,444

The reliability of data here is very mindful of the Alpha and r Table figure changes of the variables namely: Internet Exposure as independent variable (x) and Sexual Behaviour as dependent variable (y).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 3.1. showing the results of the correlation between the independent variable (x) internet media and dependent variable (y) sexual behaviour

Correlations

Internet_ Exposure	Sexual_ Behaviour
1	.737**
	.000
N	20
20	
.737**	1
.000	
N	20
20	

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

This is about discussing the result of this research which shows that there is a correlation between internet media exposure and harmful sexual behaviour among young people in Surakarta.

The magnitude of the correlation is 0.737 while the significance of the correlation is 0.000.

So, **H₀** is rejected and **H_a** is accepted because the significance of the correlation is <0.01.

Therefore, the result of this research is that there is a significant correlation between Internet Media Exposure and harmful sexual behaviour among young people. The relationship is positive because high internet exposure leads to high harmful sexual behaviour among the young people.

About half (49.2%) of respondents started using the Internet between 15-19 years and 99.3% access the services from the cybercafés. Main source of information about the Internet was friends (63.3%). Frequency of use showed that 29.5% access the Internet every day. Duration of time spent online ranged from 30 minutes to three hours. Main activities engaged in included sending or reading mails (55%), on line chatting (34.1%), research/homework (31%), information about current events (27.6%),

information about schooling abroad (24.9%), music downloads (18.6%), job search (16.2%) and playing online games (12.6%): Visiting pornographic sites was reported by 8.0% and 3.6% sought information on health issues.

CONCLUSION

This research documents a high prevalence of Internet exposure among young persons. It also documented an association between frequent Internet exposure and permissive sexual behaviour highlighting Internet use as a significant predictor of adolescent sexual behaviour. In addition, poor parent-child communication was re-affirmed. Therefore, if the full educational potential of the Internet is to be realized for young persons, a multi-pronged intervention targeting young persons, building the capacity of parents for improved communication and instituting stringent guidelines for the operation of cybercafé is necessary. Young people who develop harmful sexual behaviour have usually experienced abuse and neglect themselves (Hackett et al, 2013; Hawkes 2009; McCartan et al, 2011).

A study by (Hackett et al (2013) of children and young people with harmful sexual behaviour suggests that two-thirds had experienced some kind of abuse or trauma. It also shows from the foregoing that sexual behaviour between young people is also considered harmful if one of the parties is much older – particularly if there is more than two years' difference in age or if one of is pre-pubescent and the other isn't (Davies, 2012).

However, a younger person can abuse an older child, particularly if they have power over them – for example, if the older child is disabled (Rich, 2011). So, it goes to say that violent media impacts young people. Sexual objectification – the portrayal of a person as a thing for others sexual use – impacts the mental and physical health of girls. Sexualized mainstream internet media contributes to an earlier onset of sexual behavior in youth. And that newer media appears to have an even greater impact. The result of a recent meta-analysis shows a significant overall relationship

between pornography consumption and attitudes supporting violence against women in non-experimental studies.

This relationship was found to be significantly stronger for violent pornography than for nonviolent pornography, although both types of pornography showed significant positive associations with attitudes supporting violence against women. This may translate into considerable social and practical significance when considered across larger populations. A larger concern is the impact on children who grow, develop, and learn about themselves, their gender and relationships through the lens of pornified culture. This pornified environment paired with the lack of healthy messages and images affects their vulnerability to victimization, perpetration, and effective bystander action.

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