



Strand² Squared



A Paradigm Shift Solution

Behind the Cloak of Darkness: The Impact of Pornography

Pornography has been a part of human existence since the conception of cave drawings. From caves walls and artistic renderings, to photographs - silent talkies to technicolor - on-line to virtual reality – all mediums beckon from the shadows shaping our culture deep within the core of who we are – or who we pretend to be. While capturing the images of humans involved in sexual acts is a historical consistent, the most resent onslaught of the internet has permanently and dramatically changed the sexual landscape. Contemporary humans live in a sexual paradox silently swimming in a pornographic culture.

In 2017 alone, **Pornhub got 28.5 billion visits. That’s almost 1,000 visits a second, or 78.1 million a day—way more than the population of the entire United Kingdom. That number has since jumped to 33.5 billion site visits in 2018.** Currently, the porn industry’s net worth is about \$97 billion. This money is enough to feed at-least 4.8 billion people a day. Every year, Hollywood releases roughly 600 movies and makes \$10 billion in profit. And how much porn does the industry make? 13,000 films and close to \$15 billion in profit. The porn industry makes more money than Major League Baseball, The NFL and The NBA combined.

In 2015, the average age a person first viewed hardcore pornographic images was 11 years old. Some sources say that this number is now closer to 8 years old. This coupled with a lack of comprehensive sexual education in schools has shifted sexual behaviors and norms. Porn is becoming the primary sex educator. Consider that, some sources cite up to, 88% of all porn includes an act of violence- mostly violence against women and girls.

This presentation will examine the influence of pornography on the neurobiology of the developing and already developed brain. It will seek to articulate that excessive porn use impacts an individual’s sexuality and body image taking into consideration that the onslaught of hardcore images shape and inform ones’ sexual identity and practice.

One major question often asked about porn is whether there is a correlation of causation between porn and interpersonal violence. There are over 100 studies showing that pornography use is both correlated with and is the cause (shown through experimental studies) of a wide range of violent behaviors. Over 50 studies show a strong connection between pornography and sexual violence.

The presenter will specifically focus on aspects of pornography that may lead to victimization such as the mainstreaming and national increase of choking and strangulation, BDSM (but without the typical and learned BDSM safety precautions), revenge porn, child rape/torture and sex trafficking. We will also explore how sex industry workers experience the porn industry while uncovering some of the attitudes of producers.

This presentation will be beneficial to any professional working to understand and change the culture regarding interpersonal violence in any form. There will also be discussions on possible solutions, promising practices and methodologies that can be utilized to begin the shift from a toxic sexual landscape to a possible healthy sexual reality. This presentation will include exploring the impact porn is having on the criminal justice system while exploring new tools of investigation which may assist in a more successful prosecution.

Learning Objectives:

- Examine the influence that pornography has had on the overall culture
- Articulate the neurobiology of porn use
- Examine how pornography has influenced the cultural acceptance of interpersonal violence
- Uncover a clear correlation between porn use and hands on violence
- Recognize that porn is a vast and public display of human sex trafficking, rape (both child and adult) and torture.
- Look at the motivations of producers
- Describe possible solutions, strategies and tools.