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Pornography, Paraphilia and Sex Addiction

We live in a society where information is at the click of a mouse and where we spend a lot of time in front of our computers. For all the time spent looking for knowledge and information; there is an equal amount of time looking for pornography. The debate is whether pornography is to blame for creating more and more sex addicts and even breeding paraphilic behavior. Is the increase in crimes against children of a sexual nature correlated to the explosive growth of the pornographic industry; and why has there been so little attention paid by psychological, sociological and medical disciplines that is in proportion to the fast growing industry of pornography? If we as a society do not hold our greatest minds accountable for studying issues that can have enormous impact on communities then who will? There are many addictive things in this world and there are those who have more of a predisposition to become addicted to them: yet there has been very little interest from medicine, psychology, or even sociology that is in direct proportion to the immense economic growth this industry has realized (D'Orlando, 2011). The jury is still out in the scientific community and has not reached a consensus on the effects of pornography (D'Orlando, 2011). So how is it, that so many different statements are made about how pornography is the cause of everything from divorce to pedophilia? If society wants to blame someone or something, they had better look in the mirror and realize the simple fact is, no one is doing anything to prevent it. To solve a problem, one must first understand it. The best approach is to consider all angles, form a hypothesis, and

then do research and experiments in order to gather credible information and concrete data on the issue. If we understand the how's and whys, as to what causes sexual addiction and paraphilia is; then not only can we help individuals who would normally become one of these undesired abominations, but also we could save countless victims in the process. What do all these people have in common? Is it a Gene or a chemical imbalance? Is it controllable and therefore inexcusable? If we knew the answers to these and other questions about abnormal sexual behavior then could we not prevent it from even surfacing in the first place?

It is bewildering why we, as a society have taken a pitch fork and torch approach to this issue and that this issue is too taboo to even ask for research grants. It is not about helping the would be sex offenders and so called perverts, it is about helping children and women who fall victim every year to sexual predators who can no longer contain the desire to act out their fantasies. What if we could reduce, in significant numbers, the new generations of paraphiliacs and sex addicted individuals who have impulse control issues? Would it not follow that the amount of people who inevitably fall victim to these individuals, be reduced as well? Who will have the intestinal fortitude to stand up and start the process? We must turn our gaze on the scientific community to answer these tough and hard to swallow issues in order to save our children and loved ones. If some gene can be suppressed or a chemical process in the brain, reversed, there would be no one to commit these crimes if they were identified early on; or even at birth.

The people that would like to ban pornography such as religious zealots or right wing conservatives would have us believe that pornography is the sole cause of this problem and that we should work to ban all types of pornography. These types of people are naive to the fact that; where there is a demand, there will always be a supply. They put too much faith in the law to

protect our children, families and other loved ones instead of trying to use scientific and psychological studies to get to the root of the issue and stop these psychotic behaviors. growth in recent years of the pornographic industry which has grown to a 13-billion dollar industry (as cited in Ropelato, 2006), and that nearly 50% of internet use is devoted to sexually oriented websites (as cited in McNair, 2002). Yet so little attention has been paid to this fast growing trend and what is more disturbing is that the effort to understand how this growth has affected the psychological development of children, the affect that widespread pornographic material use is influencing not only culture but deviant behavior as well. Sex is wide spread in our media, it is what sells products in commercials, sex is joked about and talked about openly and we are bombarded every day by some image and or other media that is sexually suggestive, yet the topic is taboo and we send mixed messages to our teens and to those that would take their sexual desires to extremes.

It truly is time to take the first steps in controlling these behaviors and also holding our media accountable for what it portrays on the television that includes, not only sexual content but also violence, during the times children and young adolescents would normally be awake and watching something on T.V. It is also time to send a message to the scientific community who have been to apathetic toward investigating sex addiction and the behaviors that lead to crimes against the innocent. These crimes could be completely preventable and as of yet, there has been little attention paid to investigations in prevention and more time spent on victims counseling and prosecuting offenders. Why not invest an equal amount of time to collect data and samples from voluntary offenders and allow them to do some good for our society. Pornography is not the cause, rather it is the over use of pornography that is an identifiable symptom of sex addiction and paraphilia. We can find a way to benefit all of society. We must find it.