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FAMILY DETERMINANTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
ATTITUDES TOWARDS PORNOGRAPHY.  
A RESEARCH REPORT

**Abstract.** Pornography is among the phenomena which have not been clearly defined in the subject literature yet. The ambiguity of the phenomenon promoted in contemporary social and cultural reality and its normalization causes that it can be interpreted and evaluated in many different ways. Available research and analyses lack any approach that would describe how pornography affects the development and behavior of youth in different care and upbringing environments.

This article aims to discuss the results of the author's study related to family determinants of youth's attitudes towards pornography. The author's intention is to initiate a discussion and a further study of this topic. The study was based on a sample of 127 students. To obtain empirical data, a survey questionnaire created by the author was used. Through this analysis, an attempt was made to find answers to the question if selected variables of a family environment (the type of parental relationship, type of parenting style in a family, a sense of emotional support from parents, values adopted by parents) differentiate a youth's attitudes towards pornography in cognitive, emotional and behavioral aspects.

**Keywords:** youth; attitude; pornography; family.

Modern times are a period of rapid social changes, not only visible in the market, economic and political spheres, but also in the area of norms, attitudes, value systems and assessments. Globalization processes cause the intermingling of social life patterns characteristic of many cultures, and a particularly high value is opening up to everything that is different, new and individual. Certain phenomena, previously regarded as pathological, are nowadays more acceptable, tolerated and normal. This also applies to phenomena

related to human sexuality, such as pornography. It is a phenomenon that, although it has existed in society for many centuries, has not yet been clearly defined.

Representatives of many scientific disciplines, such as psychology, sociology, sexology, economics, law, and ethics, have been trying to create an exhausting definition over the years. There is also a scientific discussion on the scope of the meaning of the term “pornographic materials,” namely which material qualifies as strictly pornographic, which is erotic, and which are an element of art and culture.<sup>1</sup> It seems, therefore, that the classification of pornographic materials (explicitly excluding brutal pornography and child pornography) is often characterized by the recipient’s subjectivism.

The necessity to conduct research on the perception of pornography by young people is dictated by the fact that it causes individual and social harm. D. Kornas-Biela<sup>2</sup> also explores pornography’s influence and lists the following: the system of values, moral and social development, the image of femininity and masculinity, and the mutual relationships between the sexes, our attitude towards marriage and family, and the “physical” I. The author also insists that pornography is a form of violence that affects the personal well-being of children; it influences the formation of sexual pathology; it affects criminal behavior; it has an impact on one’s personality; it affects the psyches of children and adolescents. Other authors emphasize the danger of dependence on pornographic materials,<sup>3</sup> yet there are other destructive effects on the family.<sup>4</sup>

D. Kornas-Biela emphasizes: “No research [...] can also contradict a healthy opinion that suggests that pornography does not have an impact on consumers’ awareness, feelings and attitudes.”<sup>5</sup> In Polish empirical reports, there is a lack of research concerning the conditions influencing youth and the

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<sup>1</sup> Andrzej RODAN, *Historia erotyki*, vol. 1. *Pornografia* (Łódź: Wydawnictwo Garmond A.G., 1996), 5; Zbigniew LEW-STAROWICZ, *Słownik seksuologiczny* (Warszawa: Agencja Omipress, 1986), 67.

<sup>2</sup> Dorota KORNAS-BIELA, “Wpływ pornografii na rozwój osobowości człowieka,” in DZIAŁ EKSPERTYZ BIURA INFORMACJI I DOKUMENTACJI SENACKIEJ KANCELARII SENATU, *Pornografia—zagrożenia dla rodziny i społeczeństwa* (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Kancelaria Senatu Biuro IiDS, 1999), 13–25.

<sup>3</sup> Tadeusz JAKUBOWSKI, “Zagrożenia w dziedzinie płciowości—pornografia,” *Katecheta* no. 7–8 (1999): 42–43.

<sup>4</sup> Patrick FAGAN, *Wpływ pornografii na jednostkę, małżeństwo, rodzinę i społeczeństwo* (Poznań: Wydawnictwo Fundacja “Głos dla Życia,” 2010), 5.

<sup>5</sup> KORNAS-BIELA, “Wpływ pornografii na rozwój osobowości człowieka,” 12–13.

phenomenon of pornography, and such an approach seems necessary from the point of view of practical postulates. This article will communicate the results of empirical research on the determinants of family attitudes and young people towards pornography.

#### MATERIALS AND METHOD

The aim of the study was to determine whether there is a relationship between family conditions (the type of parental relationship, parenting style in the family, emotional support from the parents, and values cultivated in the family) and the attitudes of young people towards pornography. It was assumed that family factors differentiate respondents' attitudes in this area.

In the presented considerations, the authors defined attitude as a structural trend, where every aspect makes up its cognitive, emotional and behavioral dimension.<sup>6</sup> We analyzed the attitudes of young people towards pornography by establishing their level of knowledge about pornography, and the nature of this knowledge depends on the sources of information used (the cognitive component), declared emotions (emotional component) and declarations on the topic of intentionally viewing pornographic materials (behavioral component).

Our assessment of the respondents' level of knowledge on pornography was carried out on the basis of a short test containing 6 questions, divided into 22 detailed issues in the area of the analyzed subject matter. For every correct response, the applicant received 1 or 2 points, and depending on the nature of the question and the degree of correctness of the answer, they could get a maximum of 24 points. The sum of the points obtained was an indicator of the level of their knowledge. The following scales were used in the tests: 0–9 points—a low knowledge level, 10–18 points—a medium level of knowledge, 19–24 points—a high level of knowledge.

Our research was carried out in June 2017 among the students of the last classes of two Rzeszów secondary technical schools. The applied method was a diagnostic survey, and an auditory questionnaire was selected as the research technique. The selection of the sample for the study was random. Out of 150 questionnaires, 127 questionnaires qualified for the analysis.

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<sup>6</sup> Tadeusz MAŁDZIŃSKI, *Psychologiczne prawidłowości kształtowania się postaw* (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Szkolne i Pedagogiczne, 1977); cf. Stefan NOWAK, *Teorie postaw* (Warszawa: PWN, 1973), Stanisław MIKA, *Psychologia społeczna* (Warszawa: PWN, 1987).

We considered their differentiation due to the type of parental union, and the majority were young people whose parents are married and live together (40.9%); 22.1% of respondents declared that their parents are divorced or are separated; 21.6% claimed that their parents lived together without marriage; 11.8% said that their parents never lived together; and 3.9% stated that one of their parents (or both) are no longer alive.

The highest percentage of respondents pointed to a liberal style of parenting in their families (55.1%), 31.5% of the respondents described it as liberal, and 13.4% indicated the style of parental guidance in their family to be autocratic. The highest percentage of young people pointed to a lack of emotional support on the part of parents (46.5%), 44.1% of respondents claimed that they received support from one of their parents (including 26.8% only from their mothers and 17.3% only from their fathers), and 9.5% of respondents declared a lack of emotional support from their parents.

In the opinion of 48.8% of the youth surveyed in their family homes, the greatest importance was attributed to affiliation values, such as the feeling of being needed, a successful family life, and having friends. In the families of 29.1% of the respondents, a pragmatic orientation was predominant, which was reflected in the declarations of the respondents about assigning the highest rank to such values as education and well-paying, interesting work. In the families of 22.1% of students, hedonistic values (an entertainment lifestyle, material goods, prestige and respect from their environment) were highly valued.

#### THE YOUTH'S ATTITUDES TOWARDS PORNOGRAPHY. AN ANALYSIS OF OWN RESEARCH

Knowledge about a selected area of social reality significantly determines a person's attitude towards familiar phenomena, objects or processes. The attitudes of young people towards pornography will be related to the level of respondents' knowledge on a subject. As indicated by the results of the conducted research, the topic of pornography is not widely discussed.

Only 9.5% of respondents presented a high level of knowledge on this subject, in the case of 62.2%, it was an average level, and 28.3% of the respondents were characterized by a low level of knowledge. Taking into account differentiation based on family factors, we can talk about a statistically significant relationship between the type of parental relationship and the level of respondent knowledge about the phenomenon of pornography:

( $x^2 = 37.5 > x^2_{0.01; 8} = 20.1$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.5$ ).

We can say that the strength of this relationship is average.

Diversifying the level of knowledge according to the type of relationship in the parents is manifested in a high percentage (60%) of respondents with a high level of knowledge in the category in which one or both parents are no longer living.<sup>7</sup> Because this category only included 3.9% of the respondents, this relationship was rather more quantitative than qualitative in character. The second most noticeable trend is the highest percentage of people presenting a low level of knowledge (53.6%) in the group of people whose parents were divorced or living in separation.

A statistically significant relationship was also found between the style of upbringing in a family and the level of knowledge of the surveyed youth: ( $x^2 = 16.5 > x^2_{0.01; 4} = 13.3$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.3$ ), and we described the strength of this relationship as weak.

The highest percentage of respondents with high levels of knowledge (52.9%) were people living in families with an autocratic style of parenting and upbringing. The other categories were dominated by an average level of knowledge (in families with a liberal education and lifestyle, 75.7%, and in families characterized by a democratic style of upbringing it was 52.9%).

The level of respondent knowledge about pornography was also differentiated according to the level of emotional support on the part of parents: ( $x^2 = 72.7 > x^2_{0.01; 6} = 16.8$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.6$ ), and we determined the strength of this relationship to be high.

The highest percentage rates of a low level of knowledge about pornography were recorded in groups of youth declaring a sense of emotional support from both parents (50%) and those only supported emotionally from the mother's side (79.4%). It is significant that in the group of young people receiving emotional support only from the mother's side, none of the respondents obtained a result that would allow qualifying their level of knowledge about pornography as high. This is probably due to the fact that the dominant role of a mother and woman in raising a young man largely determines his cognitive activity and to a greater extent directs his sphere of emotional relationships onto people rather than on the sphere of carnal knowledge. This may result from the fact that a mother, more than fathers, tries by all means to

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<sup>7</sup> In the remaining categories, a high level of knowledge was shown by 3.9% of respondents whose parents were married and lived together, 7.4% of young people whose parents live together without marriage, 17.9% of respondents whose parents are divorced or separated. Also, none of the youth from the category where parents never lived together had a high level of knowledge.

protect children from getting any information on sexuality and its related topics, assuming that they will have time for these matters sometime in the future.

Statistical analysis of the results showed no statistically significant relationship between values considered important among the families of the respondents and the level of their knowledge ( $\chi^2 = 8.1 < \chi^2_{0.01; 4} = 13.3$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ) in the area of interest to us. An average level of knowledge was dominant among the youth based on the values system in families.<sup>8</sup>

The area and type of knowledge about a selected area of social reality results from the preferred sources of information on a given topic. As a rule, people choose sources of knowledge on a given topic that present a point of view consistent with their own beliefs or the convictions of other significant people. In this way, they avoid using cognitive dissonance, but at the same time they close the way to obtaining more objective information on this subject and the possibility of obtaining more knowledge. This particularly applies to controversial and emotional topics.

When analyzing the sources from which young people learned about pornography, we must state that they are diverse. 35.4% of respondents stated that the most common source of information on this subject are friends and acquaintances. In the second order, the press and socialist programs in the media were mentioned (29.9%), next siblings (16.5%), personal experiences (9.5%), and academic literature (6.3%). Only 2.4% of respondents indicated that they obtained information on pornography from their parents.

The type of relationship among parents varied statistically significantly from young people's knowledge about pornography ( $\chi^2 = 55.7 > \chi^2_{0.01; 20} = 37.6$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.5$ ), and we define the strength of this relationship as being average. It should be noted that pointing to parents as a source of knowledge in this area of interest to us was stated by young people whose parents never lived together (13.3%) and by respondents whose parents have divorced or separated (3.6%). The highest percentage of respondents who know about pornography because they experienced it was present in the group of young people whose parents live together without being married (14.8%). It can be presumed that this is due to these families having more liberal views.

The sources from which young people get information about pornography were also differentiated by the parenting style in the family, and the strength of this relationship is high ( $\chi^2 = 60.3 > \chi^2_{0.01; 10} = 23.2$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.6$ ).

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<sup>8</sup> Respectively: 74.2% in the youth category, where affiliation values are highly valued in these families; 51.4% in the category in which pragmatic values are valued and 50% in the case of youth in families where hedonic values are valued the greatest.

It should be noted that the youth coming from families in which the democratic model of education dominated most often pointed to siblings as their source of knowledge on pornography (45%). It is also significant that young people in families whose style of upbringing was rather autocratic was the isolated category that did not point to parents and siblings as the source of knowledge on pornography.

In this type of a family, where the parent-child distance is noticeable and contacts are formal, rigid and very rarely turn out to be warm, caring, or supportive, certain topics are taboo, and talking about them is not allowed. This may result in the desire to obtain information from unilateral, biased, often promoted values, which in a negative way in the long run may affect the social and moral development of a young person.

The feeling of emotional support on the part of parents varied in a statistically significant way from the sources of knowledge for young people concerning information on pornography ( $\chi^2 = 68.2 > \chi^2_{0.01; 15} = 30.6$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.6$ ), and the strength of this relationship was high.

Respondents who claimed that they do not feel emotional support from their parents most often pointed to the press and the media as the source of information on pornography (42.4%). Once again, it should be emphasized that the quality of this information and the consequences of relying on it may have negative consequences on an individual. It should also be noted that among the youth who experience emotional support only from the mother's side where the only youth who did not indicate that they experienced pornography, and it was not a direct source of knowledge on the topic. The mother's role seems to be crucial in this respect.

Our analysis of the results of the study also showed a statistically significant relationship between the values considered in the family to be crucial and the sources of pornography for youth ( $\chi^2 = 111 > \chi^2_{0.01; 10} = 23.2$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.7$ ), and the strength of this relationship was high. A noticeable tendency in the survey results was the highest percentage pointing to siblings as the source of pornographic knowledge in the case of youth where hedonistic values were of greatest importance in these families (57.1%). In the remaining categories, in line with the dominant tendency revealed in the conducted research, indications for acquaintances and friends prevailed as the source of pornographic knowledge.

Analyzing the emotional component of young people's attitudes towards pornography, it should be noted that although the emotional reactions of an individual may be expressed in the behavioral sphere, they are not always

the object of direct observation. Attitudes are either suppressed or purposely hidden, or inadequately displayed in relation to their strength or character. In the presented research, we focused on the subjectively described emotions of the respondents and their declarations in terms of the emotional orientation caused by pornography.

The highest percentage of respondents indicated that they are indifferent towards pornography, which included 36.2% of respondents. 26.8% of respondents declared that their emotional reaction was curiosity, 16.5% of respondents stated that pornography makes them feel disgusted, 11.8% said it was pleasurable and relaxing and 8.7% pointed to shame and embarrassment.

There was no statistically significant relationship between the type of parental relationship and emotions ( $\chi^2 = 23.2 < \chi^2_{0.01; 16} = 32.0$ ;  $H_0 = 0$ ) related to pornography. Declaring indifference in one's reaction to pornographic materials dominated all of the categories of youth and the type of parental union. The exception was the group of young people whose parents were divorced or separated. In this group, the highest percentage of respondents (32.1%) showed a sense of disgust associated with pornography, but this was not a statistically significant difference.

The style of parenting and upbringing in the family varied according to the emotions declared by the respondents ( $\chi^2 = 28.5 > \chi^2_{0.01; 8} = 20.9$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.4$ ), and the strength of this relationship was determined as average. In the case of young people from families with a democratic and liberal style of parental guidance, the highest percentage indicated that they were indifferent to pornography. The situation was different in the case of youth raised by autocratic parents, and the highest percentage of young people in this category (47.1%) indicated that curiosity was their reaction to pornography.

This was probably caused by the "forbidden fruit" mechanism, which is natural for youth who have the desire to cross moral limits. We can also talk about the existence of a statistically significant relationship between the sense of emotional support on the part of parents and the emotions associated with pornography ( $\chi^2 = 49.1 > \chi^2_{0.01; 12} = 26.2$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.5$ ), and we found the strength of this relation to be average. Opinions were divided in the case of people who stated that they have emotional support from both parents, and it is not possible to isolate any major tendencies.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> The respondents declared the following: 16.7%—curiosity; 25%—pleasure, relaxation; 16.7%—indifference; 25%—disgust; 16.7%—shame, embarrassment.

In the category of people pointing to a lack of emotional support on the part of their parents, the highest percentage of respondents experienced indifference (57.6%). Young people who only experienced support from their mother's side felt curiosity (41.2%), and in the category of people only experiencing emotional support from their father's side, they felt pleasure and relief (31.8%).

The values recognized in the families of respondents statistically significantly differentiated the emotional components of young people's attitudes towards pornography ( $\chi^2 = 41.5 > \chi^2_{0.01; 12} = 26.2$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.4$ ), and so we defined the strength of this relationship as being average. A quite interesting tendency among the youth is declaring disgust as a reaction to pornography, and this was the highest percentage among those whose families emphasized hedonistic values (39.3%). In the case of respondents from families paying attention to pragmatic values, indifference dominated among 54.1% of them, and in the category of respondents from families oriented on affiliation values, their attitude towards pornography was curiosity (43.6%).

Analyzing the behavioral component of young people's attitudes towards pornography, we focused on the youth who declared that they viewed pornographic material. In the questionnaire, we indicated that they intended to use this type of material on purpose. We had to take into account that many young people may be exposed to pornographic presentations but not from their own initiative, taking into consideration the contemporary eroticization of many media messages.

Analyzing the respondents' declarations on the subject of viewing pornographic materials, it should be stated that the highest percentage of respondents (34.7%) admitted to having viewed such materials, 31.5% of the students claimed that they have never seen these things intentionally, 25.9% of young people said that they have viewed such materials in the past, but now they have stopped doing so, 7.9% declared that they did not deliberately view such contents but plan to try it.

In the statistical analysis, there was no statistically significant relationship between the type of parental relationship and declarations of intentionally viewing pornographic material ( $\chi^2 = 15.9 < \chi^2_{0.01; 12} = 26.2$ ;  $H_0 = 0$ ). The answers of our respondents did not differ from the main trend revealed in the study. Our analysis of the study revealed, a statistically significant relationship between the style of parenting and upbringing in the family and the declarations of the youth being studied ( $\chi^2 = 40.4 > \chi^2_{0.01; 6} = 16.8$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.4$ ), and we define the strength of this relationship as average.

It should be pointed out that in the group of adolescents raised in a liberal style, the highest percentage (52.9%) declared that they viewed pornographic materials, whereas in the categories of youth raised autocratically and democratically, the majority answered "I never looked at it."<sup>10</sup> It can be said that liberalism when educating youth was conducive to using pornography in this group.

Declarations of respondents on the subject of viewing pornographic materials were differentiated according to the feeling of emotional support on the part of parents, and we describe the strength of this relationship as being average. Worth noting is the highest percentage of intentional viewing of pornographic materials in the group of young people who feel emotional support from their father (72.7%). In this category, only 9.1% of the respondents claimed that they never viewed pornography. The same was stated by 44.1% of the respondents who experienced emotional support only from the mother and 66.7% of the youth who claimed that they feel emotional support from both parents.

A statistically significant relationship also exists between the values considered to be a priority in the families of the surveyed youth and their declarations regarding the viewing of pornographic materials ( $\chi^2 = 52.4 > \chi^2 = 16.8$ ;  $H \neq 0$ ;  $0.01$ ;  $61 r_c = 0.5$ ), so we described the strength of this relationship as average. The highest percentage of deliberate viewing of pornographic materials in the category of youth was found among families whose highest value was affiliation (58.1%). In the case of young people from families oriented towards pragmatism and tending to accept hedonistic values, the highest percentage of youth indicated that they never deliberately viewed pornographic material.

#### CONCLUSIONS RESULTING FROM THE ANALYSIS

The main hypothesis assumes that the attitudes of young people towards pornography will differ in terms of selected independent variables (meaning characteristics of the family environment). The analysis of the results of the conducted research allows us to draw the following conclusions:

—In the area of the cognitive component, the attitudes of young people on the subject of pornography among the youth surveyed have the highest

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<sup>10</sup> Declarations that young person never deliberately viewed pornographic materials were submitted by 70.6% of respondents in families with an autocratic upbringing style and 45% of youth from families where a democratic upbringing style prevailed.

percentage concerning their level of knowledge, and this qualifies as average. Therefore, this is not an area that arouses the respondent's high interest in the cognitive dimension. Taking into account the family conditions and the level of knowledge of the examined youth, it should be stated that it is dependent on such features of the family environment as: the feeling of emotional support on the part of parents ( $x^2 = 72.7 > x^2_{0.01; 6} = 16.8$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.6$ ), the type of parental relationships ( $x^2 = 37.5 > x^2_{0.01; 8} = 20.1$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.5$ ), and parenting guidance in the family ( $x^2 = 16.5 > x^2_{0.01; 4} = 13.3$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.3$ ).<sup>11</sup>

Values considered as priorities in the families of the surveyed youth do not differentiate their level of knowledge about pornography. It can be stated that having a high level of knowledge about this phenomenon is conducive to being raised in families with an autocratic style of parenting and in families where one or both parents are not alive. Taking into account the sources of knowledge used by youth, the peer community dominates,<sup>12</sup> followed by the media.

Very rarely do young people learn about pornography from reliable academic studies, and even less often from their parents. It should be noted that these academic sources do not focus on stressing the negative effects of viewing pornographic material. Taking into account the disclosed correlations, it should be stated that the choice of these sources of information is differentiated by such variables as: values recognized in the family ( $x^2 = 111 > x^2_{0.01; 10} = 23.2$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.7$ ), emotional support from parents ( $x^2 = 68.2 > x^2_{0.01; 15} = 30.6$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.6$ ), parenting style in the family ( $x^2 = 60.3 > x^2_{0.01; 10} = 23.2$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.6$ ), and the type of parental relationship ( $x^2 = 55.7 > x^2_{0.01; 20} = 37.6$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.5$ ).

In this area, we must pay attention to two issues that may be a prerequisite for formulating certain prophylactic postulates, where the highest percentage of respondents learn about pornography from their own experience in the youth whose parents live together without being married (which may be the result of a certain liberalization of sex-related customs and norms that

<sup>11</sup> These correlations have been arranged in decreasing order (from a high strength of the relationship to weak), so as to try to answer the question whether we can talk about the primary or the secondary meanings of the variables taken into account, which are independent in differentiating the attitudes of the respondents, meaning their certain gradation.

<sup>12</sup> Similar conclusions suggest that the peer community is the main source of information on pornography, and they come from older, English-language research studies. Cf. Jennings BRYANT, Dan BROWN, *Uses of Pornography*, in: *Pornography: Research Advances and Policy Considerations*, ed. Dolf Zillmann, Jennings Bryant (Hove-London-New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum, 1989), 25-55.

may be present in these environments), and on media and the press as the primary sources of information on pornography in the group of people who do not experience emotional support from their parents. There is a great danger that recipients (immature people) get their information from unreliable sources that are loaded with myths about sexual topics.

Z. Lew-Starowicz<sup>13</sup> emphasizes that these contents present a different reality than real sexual activity, focusing on sexuality that avoids other contexts, and these may become a pattern of warped sexual relationships and activity, which may result in disordered psychosexual development. Many authors also point to the results of the study showing that, in the case of children and adolescents, every type of pornography has a negative effect, because it creates a false image of sexuality and gender relations. This suggests that it is possible to buy sex and that we can separate sexuality from feelings and a system of values.<sup>14</sup>

In the area of the emotional component of the attitudes of the studied youth towards pornographic materials, it should be stated that the dominant declaration is indifference towards such messages. Such a relationship may result from a lack of interest in this subject matter, the lack of information related to it, or simply fear of expressing one's own position towards controversial social problems. 25.2% of the respondents expressed negative emotions towards pornographic materials (16.5% disgust, 8.7% shame and embarrassment).

Emotional responses declared by the respondents were differentiated according to the following variables in the family environment: a sense of emotional support from the parents ( $\chi^2 = 49.1 > \chi^2_{0.01; 12} = 26.2$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.5$ ), parenting style in the family ( $\chi^2 = 28.5 > \chi^2_{0.01; 8} = 20.9$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.4$ ), and values cultivated in the family of origin ( $\chi^2 = 41.5 > \chi^2_{0.01; 12} = 26.2$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.4$ ). The emotions declared by the respondents were most strongly correlated with parental emotional support. The type of parental union did not differentiate the emotional component of the youth's attitudes towards pornography ( $\chi^2 = 23.2 < \chi^2 = 32.0$ ;  $H_0 = 0$ ).

We should pay attention to the high percentage of respondents in the category of people who claimed to have emotional support only from their

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<sup>13</sup> Zbigniew LEW-STAROWICZ, *Encyklopedia erotyki* (Warszawa: Muza, 2004), 471.

<sup>14</sup> Cf. Beata ŁACIAK, *Świat społeczny dziecka* (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Akademickie ŻAK, 1998); Irena OBUCHOWSKA, Andrzej JACZEWSKI, *Rozwój erotyczny* (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Akademickie ŻAK, 2002), Zbigniew LEW-STAROWICZ, *Seks w sieci i nie tylko...* (Kraków: Wydawnictwo Medyczne, 2002).

father's side and also declared pleasure and relief as their dominant reactions to pornographic materials. Similar conclusions were drawn from M. Łukaszek's<sup>15</sup> study regarding the sexual behaviors of the young people at the Voluntary Labor Corps. It appears that people who do not feel support from their parents or receive support only from the mother's side declared a greater number of sexual partners and a higher percentage of sexual violence. The author explains that "[...] these facts are connected not so much with a sense of support from their father, but it is rather a complete lack of support from the mother. It seems that people who are completely deprived of their closeness and support from their parents, especially mothers, have a problem with creating partnerships and respectful relationships with others."<sup>16</sup>

—In the area of the behavioral component, the attitudes of young people towards pornography were analyzed, meaning the declarations that someone viewed these materials on purpose. At this point, I would like to mention that today's youth are much more exposed to pornography than young people growing up before 1989. The media dazzles us by sexualizing modern life in its public and media manifestations (a culture of denudation).<sup>17</sup>

The researcher's intention was to focus exclusively on the conscious, targeted activity of the youth in this area. It should be emphasized that the responses are actually declarations, so it is difficult to draw conclusions and generalizations from them. The analysis shows that 34.7% of respondents admitted to viewing pornographic material and 7.9% of respondents admitted to being open to such a situation in the future.

Declarations of viewing pornographic materials were differentiated by: priority values cultivated in the families of the respondents ( $\chi^2 = 52.4 > \chi^2_{0.01; 6} = 16.8$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.5$ ), the style of parental education ( $\chi^2 = 40.4 > \chi^2_{0.01; 6} = 16.8$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.4$ ), and emotional support from the parents ( $\chi^2 = 35.5 > \chi^2_{0.01; 9} = 21.7$ ;  $H_1 \neq 0$ ;  $r_c = 0.4$ ). We should also draw attention to the highest percentage of respondents who declared they watched pornography in the group of young people experiencing emotional support only from their father. This type of parental union did not differentiate the declaration of the youth being studied ( $\chi^2 = 15.9 < \chi^2_{0.01; 12} = 26.2$ ;  $H_0 = 0$ ).

<sup>15</sup> Maria ŁUKASZEK, *Szorstka młodość. Socjalizacyjne wyznaczniki zachowań seksualnych młodzieży (na podstawie badań wychowanków Ochotniczych Hufców Pracy)* (Rzeszów: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Rzeszowskiego, 2013), 187.

<sup>16</sup> Ibidem, 186–187.

<sup>17</sup> Cf. Brian MCNAIR, *Seks, demokratyzacja pożądania i media, czyli kultura obnażania*, transl. Ewa Klekot (Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Muza, 2004).

The conducted research is, therefore, a starting point for discussing and deepening empirical research on the attitudes of youth towards pornography. They do not exhaust the issue, and in many places it is clear that the topic requires a deeper analysis. We should also ask about how young people understand pornography (in a way that goes beyond the questions contained in the test that checks the level of respondent knowledge), about the reasons for undertaking this type of activity, about the observed effects on youth who view pornographic materials and evaluating these effects. The results of the study are meant to be a further source of inspiration in this area.

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