

**PORNOGRAPHY AS A CHALLENGE TO THE YOUTH IN
THE CONTEMPARY CHURCHES IN KENYA: A CASE OF
NAIROBI CITY**

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ABSTRACT

The influx and proliferation of pornography is a common global menace that demands global effort to curb its spreading. It is aggressively penetrating and encroaching every setting of the human society in unnoticed manner before the victims realizes they have been held captives.

The maneuvering of pornographic materials in the human society is facilitated by the changes that are associated with the pressures from the so-called global culture. This culture is a challenge to every sector of social institutions including Religion and Philosophy of the people. The Christian method of gospel proclamation and practice of Christian life as a whole is taken into task. On the other hand, the end result of such a cultural phenomenon, are watered down human, Christian values and embraced negative attitudes towards the teaching of the Holy Bible and the Quaran.

This study is an attempt to bring about a theo-cultural reflection on the negative influences of pornography among the young people in Nairobi area. The choice for Nairobi is because of its accessibility in terms of transportation and time factor.

The focus of the study will be to investigate the pornographic material and their negative effects in the younger generation and the Church pastoral role to assist and guide the youth from being wrongly influenced.

Pornography is generally perceived to expose the young people into sex before they are sexually mature. This exposes them to many dangers before their productive age. The significance of the study has been three dimensions.

First, the study is aimed at inducing interest of theologians and students of theology to reflect on the negative effects of pornography to the youth, who are presumed to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Secondly, the Church clergy and Leaders might find the study interesting to read out of curiosity and end up drawing up insights that might be relevant to the youth and how best to guide them deal with pornography when they encounter them.

Thirdly, the study is aimed at examining theological dimension and reflections of pornography according to the teachings of the Bible, and to suggest ways of curbing the spreading of pornography in Nairobi and other parts of the country.

The methodology of the study employed in collecting the data were secondary and primary sources. The study also employed questionnaire guide, personal interview and participatory observation to acquire the primary data.

The findings of this research work mainly based from the field work interviews and secondary information. Out of the research findings, it has been observed that; first, pornography is a human common problem to every family. Almost every family in Nairobi had encountered pornography in one way or another.

Secondly, testimonies from majority of the youth interviewed, 65% (out of hundred), confessed to have been exposed to pornography during their leisure time.

Thirdly, due to lack of adequate recreational facilities the young people lacks alternative choices of managing their time. The available facilities cannot be afforded by the larger number of young people who are unemployed.

Fourthly, the Church lacks an agenda for the young people as reflected in their programs, while Church leaders seems to be pre occupied with issues that are more relevant to the adult than the youth.

From the above observation, the study makes following recommendation. First, Since most young attend a Church service, the audience ought to be sensitized on the dangers and evils of pornography and how best it should be dealt with.

Secondly, the society on the other hand, ought to be educated through various approaches. The general public may be enlightened during the Chief-Baraza's (meetings), Newspaper advertisements, magazines. use of big billboards, the use of mass media, mobile telephone short messages systems (S.M.S) among many others.