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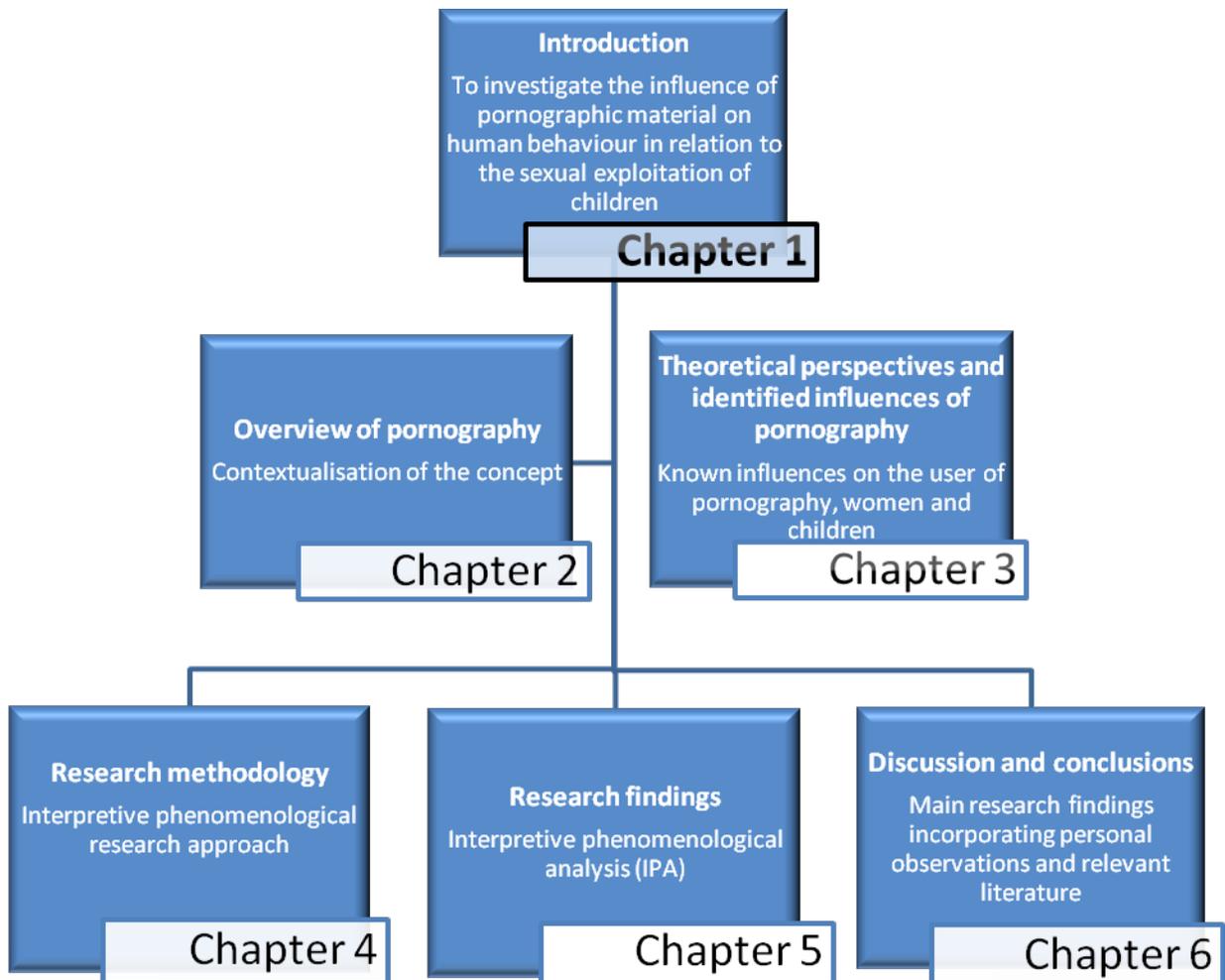
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Layout of the Thesis: Chapter 1



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Contextualisation of the study

Pornographic material has become freely available and easily accessible in a private and convenient setting, mainly because of the development of technology, more specifically the Internet and cellular telephones. According to the 2013 General Household Survey report, published by Statistics South Africa (2014), 40.9% of South African households have at least one member who either used the Internet at home or had access to it elsewhere including at work, school, place of study or Internet cafe. There are far more households in metropolitan areas that have Internet access at home (16.4%), compared with households in urban (9.2%) and rural areas (2%). It is clear that cellular telephones offer more access for rural households, 17.9% of rural households go online using mobile devices, with a total of 30.8% South African households using mobile devices to access the Internet. The increasing access to the Internet as indicated above, creates immense challenges in terms of dealing with widespread exposure to pornographic material and especially the protection of vulnerable individuals such as children.

The growth of the pornographic market has seen a reduced role for the traditional media through which pornography was once brought to the public, and the rapid rise of new media (D'Orlando, 2009). Previously, pornography was mainly brought to the public via pornographic magazines, video cassettes and DVDs. Nowadays, pornography is mostly accessed through the Internet, which is easily accessible on PCs and cellular phones. Accessing pornographic material on the Internet has expanded its range of consumers and provides these consumers with a broad range of sexually explicit material, both legal and illegal, including child pornography. Although the true extent of child pornography is unknown due to its unlawful nature, it can be argued that child pornography is more likely to be accessed due to the development of technology and this results in an increase in the demand for this material.

According to the TopTenREVIEWS survey (Ropelato, 2010), every second, 28 258 Internet users view pornography. In that same second, 372 Internet users type adult search terms into search engines. The top 20 adult search requests include sex, adult dating, porn, sex toys, teen sex, adult DVD, free sex, adult sex, sex ads, group sex, free porn, XXX, sex chat, anal sex, cyber sex, XXX videos, playboy, teen porn, nude and sexy (Ropelato, 2010). It is noteworthy and disturbing that of these 20 most frequent adult search requests, there are requests for teen sex and teen porn.

Apart from the fact that the Internet is a growing global phenomenon, the 2006 TopTenREVIEWS survey (Ropelato, 2010) also revealed that South Africa is the world's leading country in the use of the keyword "porn" in search engines. These statistics show an ever-increasing demand for pornographic material, also among South Africans, who are included in the above reported statistics. Pornography thus appears to be a huge, growing yet understudied topic (D'Orlando, 2009).

Before becoming a democratic nation, South Africa was bound by censorship laws that banned certain publications, films and other products which included pornographic material. After democracy in 1994, the Films and Publications Act 65 of 1996 came into influence, and soon after the Film and Publication Board (FPB) was promulgated to oversee the implementation of the Films and Publications Act. The FPB does not censor but classifies the content of films and publications by means of the imposition of age restrictions and the provision of consumer information on the basis of which choices about what to see or read may be made. In determining what is potentially disturbing and harmful, a set of classification guidelines is used which are informed by, among others, empirical research information on relevant topics, such as the impact of media content on children at various stages of their development. The overall purpose of the classification guidelines is to provide consumer information to enable adults to make informed viewing choices for themselves and for children in their care and to protect children from age inappropriate material and premature exposure to adult experiences.

Hence, the FPB has the responsibility to make classification decisions that are representative of the demographic, cultural and religious diversity of South Africa. This is not an easy task. Debates about pornographic material often span the continuum between individuals' rights at the one extreme and complete restriction of such material at the other. Perrin et al. (2008) elaborate on this by pointing out that whereas the larger majority sees pornography as a threat to community standards and moral norms, some defend pornography on the basis of the arguments that pornography is free speech and should not be regulated, it is relatively harmless and the laws regulating it involve the imposition of the moral norms of one group on the rest of society.

In line with governments' obligation to protect children from sexual abuse and harm, child pornography remains the only category of materials that is completely prohibited in films, publications, the Internet and in any other medium of expression or representation. Child pornography is illegal in South Africa and therefore "refused classification" by the FPB. According to South African legislation, the production, distribution and possession of child pornography is a serious criminal offence, carrying a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment. Hence, apart from child pornography, there is no censorship in South Africa (the Films and Publications Amendment Act 3 of 2009). This will be addressed in more detail in chapter 2.

South Africa can be considered a relatively "young country" that legalised pornography at a much later stage in comparison with other countries such as Denmark, Sweden and the United States of America (USA) (Diamond, 2009). It can be argued that these countries had a gradual exposure to sexually explicit material over many years, even before the development of technology, whereas South Africans had a swift exposure to pornography due to the legalisation of sexually explicit material and the development of technology happening almost simultaneously. This implies that South Africans were instantaneously exposed to an open platform of sexually explicit material and the question arises, how do South Africans experience this sudden and vast exposure and how does this affect their attitude and behaviour, especially towards children?

In view of the available statistics on child sexual abuse in South Africa, possible underlying causes including the exposure to vast sexually explicit material cannot be ignored. According to Mathews, Loots, Sikweyiya and Jewkes (2009) it is estimated that globally, between 7-37% of females and 5-10% of male children have experienced sexual abuse. In South Africa statistics related to child sexual abuse is limited and mainly available through the South African Police Service (SAPS). It is estimated that one in six of all reported chronic sexual abuse cases is a girl under the age of 12 years. Child sexual abuse occurs across cultures and socio-economic groupings with profound consequences and understanding the possible factors which increase the vulnerability of child victims and create the environment for sexually abusive acts to occur is of importance to reduce its occurrence (Mathews et al, 2009).

The debate over the relationship between pornography and sexual crimes is not of recent origin, and based on the available research and literature, there does not seem to be any consensus. Marshall (1988), a renowned researcher in the field of pornography and sexual crimes, conducted a study among patients voluntarily attending a sexual offender clinic who admitted to having engaged in either forceful sexual acts with adult females or sex with children. Marshall interviewed the sex offenders regarding their use of sexually explicit material and found that slightly more than a third of the child molesters who participated in the study claimed to have been incited to commit an offence by exposure to pornography, and 53% of them had deliberately used the stimuli of pornography as they prepared to commit their crimes. Fagan (2009) examined a number of studies related to the influences of pornography on the individual, family and community and concluded that child-sex offenders are more likely to view pornography regularly or to be involved in its distribution.

Formerly, the researcher of the current study was employed as a research manager at the FPB. It was during this period that the idea of investigating the influence of exposure to pornographic material and the sexual exploitation of children originated. Anecdotal evidence seemed to suggest that the influence of exposure to pornography on human behaviour is often underestimated and its role in the sexual exploitation of children in particular is not recognised. Based on previous unpublished research studies conducted by the researcher on behalf of the FPB, involving pornographic material, she found that high

levels of exposure to pornographic material have individual and social influences. Therefore it seems evident that there is a need for more reliable research information on the possible influences of pornography on human behaviour with a specific focus on the protection of children in the South African context.

A central tenet underlying this study is that pornography cannot be eradicated, but exposure to it needs to be properly managed.

Defining key concepts

The central concepts in this research study are pornography and child sexual exploitation or abuse. Over the decades, many researchers and nonresearchers have formulated different definitions of the term “pornography”, some vague and others more inclusive. Although it might be argued that these definitions are not flawless, they can be deemed to be appropriate and clearly distinguish between the concepts of pornography and erotica, which are often misinterpreted in discussions about sexually explicit material. This topic will be addressed in more detail in chapter 2.

Pornography

There is no universally accepted definition for pornography and when attempting to define pornography it is important to make a distinction between pornography and erotica. There seems to be a fine line between these two concepts and often the difference between pornography and erotica is debated. Based on review of available information, pornography can be defined as a portrayal of unlimited sexual activity through different means, in which one of the participants, usually a woman, is portrayed as powerless with the intention to cause sexual arousal in viewers. Whereas, erotica can be defined as portrayals of contextual, pleasurable sexual activity between adults with the intention to cause sexual arousal in both male and female viewers.

For the purpose of this study, pornography was defined according to the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of 2007, which provides the following broad legal definition of pornography: *“[P]ornography means any image, however created, or any description of a person, real or simulated, who is 18 years or older, of an explicit or sexual nature that is intended to stimulate erotic feelings, including any such image or description of such person* (Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of 2007, Government Gazette 30599, December 2007, p. 14) engaged in an act that constitutes a sexual offence;

- engaged in an act of sexual penetration;
- engaged in an act of sexual violation;
- engaged in an act of self-masturbation;
- displaying the genital organs of such person in a state of arousal or stimulation;
- unduly displaying the genital organs or anus of such person;
- displaying any form of stimulation of a sexual nature of the female breasts;
- engaged in sexually suggestive or lewd acts;
- engaged in or as the subject of sadistic or masochistic acts of a sexual nature
- engaged in any conduct or activity characteristically associated with sexual intercourse; or
- showing or describing the body, or parts of the body, of that person in a manner or in circumstances which, within the context, violate or offend the sexual integrity or dignity of that person or any other person or is capable of being use for the purposes of violating or offending the sexual integrity or dignity of that person or any other person”

It should be noted that the terms “pornography” and “sexually explicit material” will be used interchangeably in this study.

Child sexual exploitation

Estes and Weiner (2001, p. 9) describe child sexual exploitation as *“a practice by which a person, usually an adult, achieves sexual gratification, financial gain or advancement through the abuse or exploitation of a child’s sexuality by abrogating that child’s human right to dignity, equality, autonomy and physical and mental wellbeing”*. The World Health Organisation (WHO) Consultation on Child Abuse Prevention (1999, p.15) has defined child abuse as follows: *“Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power”*.

Price-Robertson, Bromfield and Vassallo (2010, in Richards, 2011) suggest that the term child sexual abuse refers to a wide variety of behaviours, including contact offences, such as, fondling genitals, masturbation, oral sex, vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, finger or another object, fondling of breasts and non-contact offences such as voyeurism, exhibitionism and exposing the child to pornography. According to Richards (2011) it has been well documented that irrespective of the behaviours involved, the sexual abuse of children has a range of very serious consequences for the victims.

Research problem

Limited reliable research information on the influences of pornographic material on human behaviour and in particular on children is available in the South African context. This results in a general lack of awareness and knowledge regarding sexually explicit material and its influence among the South African public and professionals such as law enforcement officials dealing with cases involving pornographic material and the sexual exploitation of children.

Despite the fact that South Africa is one of the few countries in Africa that has commendable legislation protecting children from pornographic material, such as the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of 2007, the Films and Publications Amendment Act 3 of 2009, and the Children's Act 38 of 2005 [as amended by the Children's Amendment Act 41 of 2009 and the Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 (Gazetted in 2010)], the application of this legislation may be problematic, attributed to poor understanding and recognition of the role of pornography in behaviour. Therefore, continuous reliable research findings supporting the adverse influences of pornography exposure on children could be used to augment the child protection language inherent in the pornography legislation.

The researcher's concern was to investigate the probable harmful influence of pornographic material and consequently the sexual exploitation of children. Hence, this study was conducted to investigate the long term influences of direct childhood exposure to pornographic material by examining adult behaviour including that involving the sexual exploitation of children. The following research questions were formulated:

- Does exposure to pornography have a general dysfunctional influence on human behaviour?
- Does exposure to pornography negatively impact on an individual's sexual thoughts and feelings and lead to dysfunctional sexual behaviour?
- Does obsessive exposure to pornography contribute to the sexual exploitation of children?
- Did child sex offenders have premature exposure to pornography and use pornography before and during their crimes?

Research objectives

The main objective of the study was to investigate the influence of pornographic material on human behaviour in relation to the sexual exploitation of children. In order to achieve the main objective, the study investigated the following:

- the initial exposure to pornography and subsequent perception of pornography and different types of pornographic material
- the motivation for viewing pornography and the viewing pattern that emerges, including access (traditional or technology) to pornography, frequency of viewing and the type of pornographic material viewed
- the perceived influence of pornography on the thoughts, feelings and behaviour with specific focus on the sexual exploitation of children
- opinions and ideas about the protection of children from the potentially harmful influence of pornography

A secondary objective of the study was to increase awareness and knowledge of pornographic material and its influence on the individual in order to contribute to the greater protection of children, with due consideration of the fact that the sexual exploitation of children is a global phenomenon and a growing problem in many countries.

The study should make a unique contribution to the available body of knowledge on the influences of pornography on human behaviour. To the knowledge of the researcher, hardly any research has been conducted on a similar topic relating to pornographic material, especially in the South African context. Furthermore, the methodology used in this study (the interpretive phenomenological approach) should make a contribution to future investigations in the field of pornography because it examined the viewing of pornographic material over an individual's lifespan and identified personal and environmental factors that can make an individual more susceptible to the influence of sexually explicit material.

The information collected in this study provides sufficient support for the proper regulation of pornographic material, especially on the Internet, and the protection of vulnerable groups in society, such as children. It is of particular value to policy makers and regulatory authorities such as the FPB, whose mandate includes the effective regulation of pornographic material in South Africa. The results of this study could set a precedent for other countries in Africa.

Research methodology

A qualitative approach, employing an interpretive research method, was used to collect the relevant research information. More details of this approach are provided in chapter 4.

In line with the interpretive phenomenological research approach, the study explored the lived experiences of convicted sex offenders who had committed a sexual offence against a child and had reported exposure to pornographic material. The participants' experiences were explored through semistructured in-depth interviews, allowing the participants to give a narrative account of their experience and allowing the researcher to gain new perspectives on the phenomenon of interest. An interview guide was developed to ensure that all the necessary information was gathered and to structure the interview.

The following five themes were included in the interview guide:

- Theme A: Personal background information
- Theme B: Exposure to pornographic material
- Theme C: Pornography and sexual relationships
- Theme D: The perceived influence on attitude and behaviour
- Theme E: Protection of children

The researcher engaged with more than 60 sex offenders in three major provinces in South Africa, of which a total of 18 participants met the criteria for participation in the research study. The realised sample is indicated in table 1.1 below.

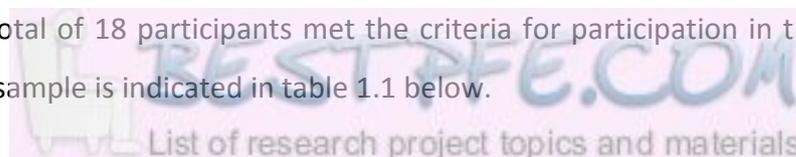


Table 1.1: Realised research sample

Province	Correctional centre	Number of interviews
Gauteng	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zonderwater• Kgosi Mampuru II Management Area (Pretoria Central)• Johannesburg Female• ODI	14
Western Cape	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pollsmoor	2
KwaZulu-Natal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Westville	2

The collected data were analysed using interpretive phenomenological analysis (IPA). IPA is an analytical tool developed by Smith (2004), which originated in health psychology, but is now often used in other areas of psychology. IPA views the participants as experts in the field and the researcher's task is to elicit their perspectives and make sense of their experiences, their worlds and behaviour, and the meanings they attribute to them (Smith, Jarmen, & Osborn, 1999). The IPA methodology encourages the use of smaller samples to allow for more detailed analysis of specific areas.

During the analysis, a number of superordinate and subordinate themes were identified. The main superordinate themes included the following:

- sense of self
- significant relationships
- abuse during childhood
- exposure to pornography
- the influence of pornography on associated feelings, thoughts and behaviour
- the consequences of viewing pornography
- feelings of remorse
- rehabilitation and support

In addition to the superordinate and subordinate themes, five additional themes were identified that were only mentioned by a small number of participants but made a contribution to the understanding of the research findings. These additional themes included:

- substance abuse
- economic circumstances
- religion
- regulation of pornographic material
- criminal justice system

The research results are presented in chapter 5 and discussed in chapter 6, together with personal observations and supportive literature.

Ethical considerations

The research procedure was designed in such a manner that it neither harmed nor offended the participants in any way. The researcher received written approval to proceed with the research study from the Research Ethics Committee of the Bureau of Market Research at Unisa and the Department of Correctional Services, Policy Co-ordination and Research Unit in 2012. The researcher followed a number of guiding principles before, during and after the data collection process, which are discussed in more detail in chapter 4.

Brief chapter overview

- **Chapter 1: Introduction**

The aim of this chapter is to orientate the reader to the research study. In order to achieve this aim, the chapter emphasises why this particular topic was chosen by the researcher and provides essential information on key concepts relevant to the study, the research objectives, research methodology and ethical considerations. An outline of the chapters contained in the document is also provided.

- **Chapter 2: Overview of pornography**

Chapter 2 deals with an overview of what is currently known about pornography. It starts off by providing a brief historical overview of the pornography industry and a definition of the central concept. The different categories of pornographic material and a historical overview of the regulation of pornographic material in South Africa are provided. The chapter concludes with speculation about the future of the regulation of pornography with specific focus on the continuous development of online material.

- **Chapter 3: Theoretical perspectives and identified influences of pornography**

This chapter provides an overview of the theoretical perspectives and identified influences of pornography on human behaviour. The potential adverse influences of pornographic material on the user of pornographic material, women and children are also dealt with.

- **Chapter 4: Research methodology**

This chapter deals with the research process followed to collect the relevant research information. It provides more information on the research design, sample, data collection method and research instrument. The chapter also explains the IPA method which was used to analyse the data. The ethical considerations and possible limitations of the study are also discussed.

- **Chapter 5: Research findings**

This chapter starts with a brief overview of each participant who participated in the research study and presents the research findings obtained through IPA. All the research findings are presented in this chapter including direct quotations from the interviews with the participants to substantiate the research findings.

- **Chapter 6: Discussion and conclusions**

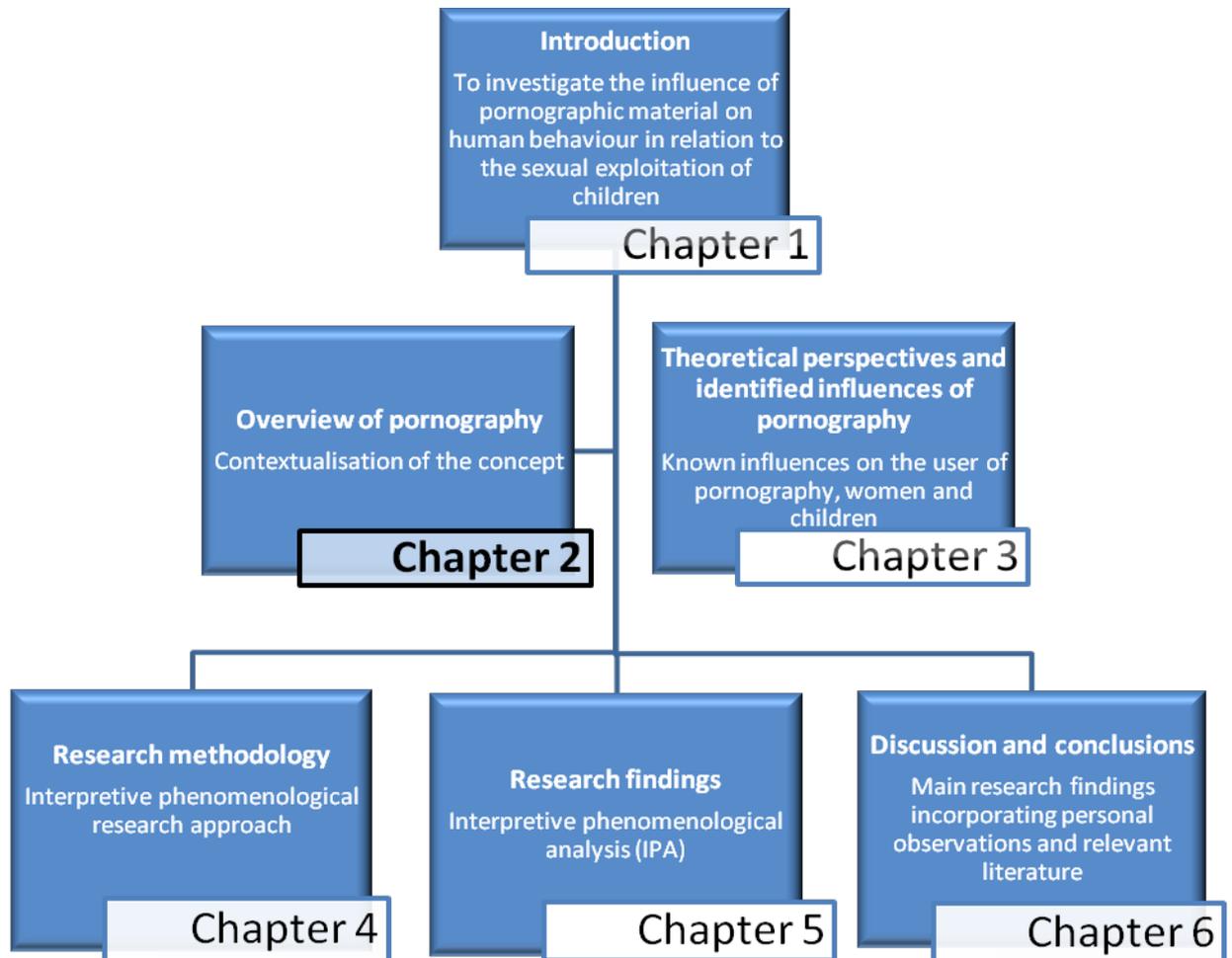
In the final chapter, the main research findings are discussed, incorporating personal observations and relevant literature. Furthermore, the limitations and strengths of the research study are highlighted and recommendations made. Suggestions are also made for possible future research studies.

Conclusion

This chapter introduced the study which aimed to investigate the influence of pornographic material on human behaviour in relation to the sexual exploitation of children and provided background on why it was conducted. Although much research has been conducted on the topic, pornography remains an area open for research because of its changing nature. With the development of technology, the Internet and mobile communication devices, the pornography industry challenges the existing structures to effectively regulate access to pornographic material for the protection of children. Consequently, pornographic material and its possible influences on human behaviour need to be researched.

In the following chapter, an overview of the history of pornographic material will be provided. An attempt will be made to define the concept pornography and an overview will be provided of different types of pornographic material. In addition, the chapter will present a historical overview of censorship and the regulation of sexually explicit material in South Africa.

Layout of the Thesis: Chapter 2



CHAPTER 2

OVERVIEW OF PORNOGRAPHY

Introduction

Pornography is not static because it is subject to personal and social transformation, and one cannot study the subject without reviewing the history of pornographic material and attempts made to define the concept. This chapter provides an overview of the most meaningful developments in the history of pornographic material, defines the concept of pornography and reviews the different types of pornographic material. Furthermore, the regulation of pornographic material will be discussed with the focus on attempts made by the South African government to successfully manage exposure to pornographic material in South African society and possible future initiatives to address the regulation of online sexually explicit content. The review of these aspects of the available literature on pornographic material, acted as a platform for the design of the current study.

Developments in the history of pornography

According to Davis, Noble, and White (2010), Rome was the birthplace of modern pornography, which dates back as far as the 16th century with the publication of the *I Modi*, which depicted sexually explicit engravings of figures from Greco-Roman mythology and ancient times. A review of the early history of pornography reveals that the production of written pornographic material continued with the most prominent theme being the lives of prostitutes. Pornography was confined mainly to the upper- and middle-class sectors of society.

The development of photographic and film technology notably transformed the already established pornographic industry during the 19th century. Pornographers in the United Kingdom (UK), the USA and European countries such as France increased the production of pornographic material, which resulted in pornography becoming more accessible to broader society. During the same period, the first obscenity laws were introduced in the UK and the USA, resulting in successful prosecutions (Davis et al., 2010).

The 20th century marked the start of so-called “men’s magazines”, which became a customary feature of the pornography industry, and even today these magazines remain a main source of sexually explicit material. According to Davis et al. (2010), *Playboy*, *Penthouse* and *Hustler* have been the most popular magazines in the history of pornography. Traditionally, each of these pornographic magazines dominated a specific niche in the pornographic magazine market; *Playboy* is known for its softcore content, *Hustler* is renowned for its hardcore material and *Penthouse* occupies the space in between. The growing popularity of these magazines was reflected in the expanding market for them, which generated further publications.

The 20th century was a crucial period for defining modern pornography as we know it today, partly because of the considerable development of technology. Notable development occurred in the production of pornographic films and videos, with the invention of the video cassette recorder (VCR), allowing individuals for the first time to purchase and view pornographic movies in the privacy of their own homes. This was soon followed by the American pay-per-view pornographic television channels in hotels, and later in private residences (Davis et al., 2010). At the time of conducting this research study, South Africa was considering the availability of pay-per-view adult channels to be broadcast on television in private households.

Undoubtedly the most meaningful development in the history of pornography in the 21st century has been online pornographic material. Cooper (1998) describes the three characteristics of the Internet, accessibility, affordability and anonymity, as a Triple-A engine, which drives its use for sexual purposes, resulting in the Internet becoming the most popular medium for accessing sexually explicit material. The Internet generates new ways in which pornographic material is produced and disseminated, which challenges existing structures.

It is clear that in past centuries, the pornographic industry developed radically, principally driven by consumer demand and the development of technology. It is likely that society will see even more developments, especially with regard to the quantity and type of online pornographic material in the future. As aptly stated by Bensimon (2007, p. 98): "*Today we laugh at the taboos of yesteryear. What will the reaction be in the future?*"

Defining pornography

When investigating the subject of pornography, it is firstly important to distinguish between the terms "erotica" and "pornography". The term "erotica" is derived from the Greek word *eros*, which means sensual desire and love (Cox, 2000). Thus, as portrayed in the definitions of Fisher and Barak (1991) and Seto, Maric, and Barbaree (2001), erotica portrays pleasurable, non-degrading and non-violent sexual activity between consenting adults, which is generally the opposite of what is found in pornographic material.

The word "pornography" originated from the Greek word *pornographos*, which originally signified the life, manners and customs of prostitutes and their clients (Montgomery Hyde, 1964). Based on this, the defining characteristic of pornography is sexuality. However, for decades it has been a challenge to define pornography and even more so to develop a universally accepted definition. The endless pornography debate driven by personal diversity, cultural and social differences as well as legal transformation, contributes to the failure of several generations to produce a satisfactory definition of pornography.

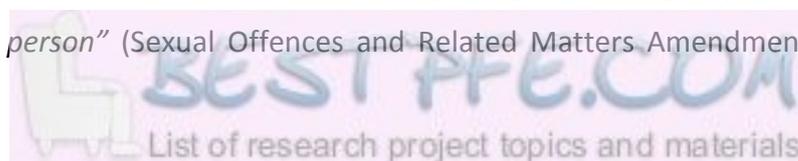
However, those opposing pornography blame it for, inter alia, the destruction of families, oppression of women and promotion of sexual crimes. Those who support pornography argue that the censorship of pornography would be an immoral and unconstitutional restriction of their freedom of expression. Moreover, the pornography industry is a billion dollar industry and many individuals have financial interests in the continued production of pornography. As Rea (2001) rightly states, the stakes are high in the pornography debate and serious efforts should be made to resolve the debate.

The available literature contains numerous definitions of pornography that have been formulated with fundamental differences. These definitions are primarily based on the content and function of the material. According to Kendrick (1987, in Attwood, 2002), the term “pornography” has been used to label a diverse range of “things” and produce rather than discover pornographic texts. In fact, these often reveal less about those texts than they do about fears of their audience’s susceptibility to being aroused, corrupted and depraved.

Authors such as Russell (1998) and Rea (2001) investigated the available definitions of pornography in order to come up with the most accurate definition. Rea (2001) concluded that the available definitions can be grouped into six categories based on the main feature of each definition. These categories include the following: defining pornography as the sale of sex for profit; a form of bad art; the portrayal of men or women as sexual beings or sexual objects; a form of obscenity; a form of oppression; and material that is intended to produce or has the effect of sexual arousal. Definitions in the latter three categories are by far the most prominent in the available literature on pornographic material. Moreover, according to Rea (2001), it is possible that some pornographic material might have more than one or even all the characteristics highlighted in these six categories, while other pornography might only have some or even none of these characteristics.

According to Rea (2001), although each of these definitions in these six categories may contribute to the understanding of pornography, none of them can count as accurate definitions. The author (2001, p. 132) concludes that the most inclusive definitions of pornography *“are those that hold that the defining feature of pornography is that it is intended to produce sexual arousal or in fact has the influence of producing sexual arousal”*.

In South Africa, pornography is legally defined in the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of 2007 as follows: *“pornography means any image, however created, or any description of a person, real or simulated, who is 18 years or older, of an explicit or sexual nature that is intended to stimulate erotic feelings, including any such image or description of such person”* (Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of



2007, Government Gazette 30599, December 2007, p. 14) engaged in an act that constitutes a sexual offence;

- engaged in an act of sexual penetration;
- engaged in an act of sexual violation;
- engaged in an act of self-masturbation;
- displaying the genital organs of such person in a state of arousal or stimulation;
- unduly displaying the genital organs or anus of such person;
- displaying any form of stimulation of a sexual nature of the female breasts;
- engaged in sexually suggestive or lewd acts;
- engaged in or as the subject of sadistic or masochistic acts of a sexual nature
- engaged in any conduct or activity characteristically associated with sexual intercourse; or
- showing or describing the body, or parts of the body, of that person in a manner or in circumstances which, within the context, violate or offend the sexual integrity or dignity of that person or any other person or is capable of being use for the purposes of violating or offending the sexual integrity or dignity of that person or any other person”.

Based on the legal definition of pornography in the above-mentioned Act, it is important to note the following: (1) the persons involved must be older than 18 years; (2) the image or description must be “of an explicit or sexual nature”; and (3) it is intended to *create erotic feelings*. Although the definition, from a practical perspective, can be seen as an accurate definition of pornography, it fails to see pornography in the context of the possible consequence it might have, especially for children. The changing nature of pornography justifies a definition that goes beyond the depiction and also reflects on the probable influence of pornography.

Attwood (2002) notes that the last 20 years have seen the appearance of a much greater variety of pornographic material, with the boundaries between pornography and other forms of sexual representation becoming less clear than they did in the past. Consequently,

many discussions of pornography now focus on the limitations of previous accounts, particularly the attempts to define pornography and chart its social influences (Attwood, 2002). The lack of an inclusive definition of pornography has significant practical consequences if one considers the fact that it can affect legal proceedings, lead to the inadequate design and implementation of policies relating to the regulation of pornographic material and protection of children and cause confusion in the moral debates around pornography. Hence an adequate inclusive definition of pornography is essential to convey more clarity and guidance.

The next section deals with the different types of pornographic material. It is hoped that an explanation of the different types of pornography will illustrate the diverse nature of pornographic material and promote a clearer understanding of what exactly constitutes pornography.

Different types of pornography

Soft- and hardcore pornography

Soft- and hardcore pornography are the most commonly used categories for categorising different types of pornography and it is essential to understand the differences between the two terms. About 45 years ago, Gordon and Bell (1969) recognised that although both types of pornography aim to present as much sexual activity as possible, they do differ in terms of the structure they employ and elements used, including sexual activities and sexual lingo.

Softcore pornography can be described as the more conventional type of pornographic material. It has a clear story line and depicts sexual conduct, but not of an explicit nature. It contains none or limited slang referring to sexual organs and sexual acts and generally focuses on sexual intercourse without showing the genitals in an aroused state. Hardcore pornography, however, is less plausible, fully exploits sexual slang and includes a full spectrum of sexual activity, including oral, vaginal and anal penetration (Gordon & Bell, 1969).

Hardcore pornography can be described as a world of sexual insanity, hostility and utter lack of control which include, inter alia, themes such as:

- incest
- bestiality
- bondage and torture
- homosexuality and transvestitism
- rape and violence
- fetishes
- satanism and witchcraft

The Films and Publications Amendment Act 3 of 2009 does not make specific reference to soft- and hardcore pornography, but does distinguish between these categories in terms of restriction and distribution. According to this Act, any distributor of a publication or film that contains explicit sexual conduct must submit the material to the FPB for examination prior to distribution to the public. Based on the contents, the submitted material is either classified as "X18", "XX" or "Refused classification". These classification decisions can be explained as follows:

- A film classified as X18 contains a scene or scenes, simulated or real, judged within context, of explicit sexual conduct which in the case of sexual intercourse, includes an explicit visual presentation of genitals. These films may only be distributed by a permit holder from "adult premises" to persons 18 years and older.
- A film classified as XX contains a scene or scenes, simulated or real, judged within context, of any of the following and may not be distributed to members of the public:
 - bestiality, incest or rape
 - explicit sexual conduct which violates or shows disrespect for the right to human dignity of any person or which degrades a person or which constitutes

incitement to cause harm

- the explicit infliction of extreme violence or the explicit influences of extreme violence which constitutes incitement to cause harm
- A Classification Committee from the FPB will classify a film as "refused classification" if it contains child pornography, propaganda for war or incites imminent violence; or advocates hatred based on any identifiable group characteristic and that constitutes incitement to cause harm.

Accordingly, softcore pornography, according to the Films and Publications Act, is restricted to adults only (individuals 18 years and older) owing to nudity and sex, while pornographic material rated X18 is restricted both with respect to its consumers (individuals 18 years and older) and its distribution (adult shops only). Although material classified as XX may not be distributed to members of the public through any outlet, it is freely available via the Internet and may therefore be viewed in the privacy of an individual's household.

Pornography as we know it today has changed into many different forms, and will undoubtedly continue to transform in the future. This transformation can be ascribed to various factors, including consumer demand, regulation of pornographic material and the development of technology. According to Hardy (2008), advances in technology mark a decisive shift towards the era of reality pornography and have resulted in new variants of pornography such as so-called "gonzo" films, amateur pornography and cyber porn.

Gonzo pornography is a particularly brutal type of pornography that is extremely violent and exhausting for the body and mind (Bieda, 2012). It can be described as simply recorded series of sex acts including oral, vaginal and anal penetration often performed while the men call the women demeaning and degrading names. These are far from depictions of sexual activities between consenting adults and have become increasingly normalised in the pornography industry.

The development of technology has also given rise to amateur pornography, which originated from amateurs releasing their self-produced pornographic material in the form of stories, photos or videos on the Internet. According to Döring (2009), many amateurs release their self-produced pornography on the Internet and it is not uncommon for amateur pornography to contain authentic sexual encounters or reality pornography as described by Hardy (2008). In many instances, amateur pornography is also marked by a deliberate effort to develop thematic and aesthetic alternatives to mainstream pornography's stereotypes, say, by presenting a wide range of body shapes and sizes. Besides servicing and extending amateur production, cyber porn also promises interactivity. This form of pornography allows an individual to participate in the sexual activity without being present. According to Hardy (2008), whereas pornography once attempted, more or less subtly, to represent sex in a convincing way, it now simply records and reproduces a slice of the reality of some people's lived sexual lives.

It is noteworthy that Hardy (2008) suggests that these new forms of pornography are more intensive and are likely to play a significant role in shaping of individuals' sexual practices. It is widely recognised that pornography has the power to move the body and to structure desire in new ways. Such recognition undoubtedly makes the study of the role and impact of pornography in contemporary culture imperative and worthwhile.

Child pornography

This section will deal with child pornography, which can be regarded as a category on its own because of its unlawful nature. It is pertinent to note that in South Africa, child pornography is illegal according to the Films and Publications Amendment Act 3 of 2009 and the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of 2007. Although the name includes the word "pornography", the actual material cannot simply be defined as pornography but rather as child abuse images. Tate (1990) suggests that the use of the word "pornography" trivialises the material, comparing it to consensual adult sexual images, whereas the material depicts images of children being sexually abused, for example, adults having vaginal, oral or anal sex with children, children being raped, tortured or beaten and

children having sex with other children. Jenkins (2001, p. 9) rightly comments that *"[It] is a substantial presence, and much of the material out there is worse than most of us can imagine, in terms of the types of activity depicted and the ages of the children portrayed"*.

The Films and Publications Amendment Act 3 of 2009 defines child pornography as follows: *"child pornography includes any image, however created or any description of a person, real or simulated, who is or who is depicted, made to appear, look like, represented or described as being under the age of 18 years-*

- engaged in sexual conduct
- participating in, or assisting another person to participate in sexual conduct
- showing or describing the body, or parts of the body, of such a person in a manner or in circumstances which, within context, amounts to sexual exploitation, or in such a manner that it is capable of being used for the purposes of sexual exploitation"

Child pornography is defined in the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of 2007 (p. 12) as follows: *"child pornography means any image, however created, or any description or presentation of a person, real or simulated, who is, or who is depicted or described or presented as being, under the age of 18 years, of an explicit or sexual nature, whether such image or description or presentation is intended to stimulate erotic or aesthetic feelings or not, including any such image or description of such person-*

- engaged in an act that constitutes a sexual offence;
- engaged in an act of sexual penetration;
- engaged in an act of sexual violation;
- engaged in an act of self-masturbation;
- displaying the genital organs of such person in a state of arousal or stimulation;
- unduly displaying the genital organs or anus of such person;
- displaying any form of stimulation of a sexual nature of such person's breasts;
- engaged in sexually suggestive or lewd acts;
- engaged in or as the subject of sadistic or masochistic acts of a sexual nature;

- engaged in any conduct or activity characteristically associated with sexual intercourse;
- showing or describing such person;
- participating in, or assisting or facilitating another person to participate in; or
- being in the presence of another person who commits or in any other manner being involved in, any act contemplated in a sexual offence or sexual intercourse;
- showing or describing the body, or parts of the body, of such person in a manner or in circumstances which, within the context, violate or offend the sexual integrity or dignity of that person or any category of persons under 18 or is capable of being used for the purposes of violating or offending the sexual integrity or dignity of that person, any person or group of categories of persons.”

In present times child pornography is mainly created and shared via the Internet, by a close group of individuals who have a specific interest in sexual activity with children. It is likely that the features of online interactions such as anonymity and accessibility, have contributed to an increasing number of child pornography consumers who do not actively seek out such material via the more traditional mediums (Burke, Sowerbutts, Blundell, & Sherry, 2002). In most instances, the victim of child pornography is sexually abused and forced to engage in sexual activities while being photographed or filmed. According to Campher and Bezuidenhout (2007), in cases where children have consented to the sexual deed, sexual abuse is still taking place because the child does not have the cognitive and emotional capacity to comprehend the exploitative nature of the deeds.

Available literature emphasises the following three factors central to child pornography: (1) child pornography is becoming easier to access owing to developments in technology; (2) as the demand for child pornography increases, the images are becoming more explicit, which inevitably means that increasingly more children are being abused; and (3) child pornography is a globalised crime and therefore requires a transformation of present law enforcement (Jenkins, 2001).

South Africa has enacted laws specific to the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation such as the Children's Act 38 of 2005 [as amended by the Children's Amendment Act 41 of 2009 and Child Justice Act 75 of 2008 (Gazetted 2010)], in response to government's obligations to the Constitution and relevant international treaties including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, the Cybercrime Convention and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act 108 of 1996 is the most binding law in South Africa. According to section 28(1)(d) of the Constitution, every child has the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation. In addition, it is stipulated in section 28(2) that the child's best interests are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child. This highlights the fact that the duty to protect children from being abused is a constitutional obligation.

South Africa is one of only eight countries in the world with laws that meet the minimum requirements established by the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children for an appropriate and effective response to the global problem of child pornography (International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, 2010). The Films and Publications Amendment Act 3 of 2009 and the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Amendment Act 32 of 2007 deal specifically with child pornography and make provision for the protection of children from sexual exploitation. In addition, both these Acts also recognise not only the fact that the Internet is now almost the only medium for the creation, distribution and possession of child pornography, but also that the Internet has globalised the child pornography industry.

The globalisation of the pornography industry contributes to the complex issue of regulating child pornography on the Internet and the frustration of police officials investigating related cases. This is mainly ascribed to the nature of technology itself and a lack of harmonisation of child pornography laws and sentencing policies. Many of the countries hosting content that is viewed online have permissive standards in relation to sexually explicit material and lack legal controls pertaining to child pornography (Burke et al., 2002). Consequently, the regulation of child pornography requires a collective and *"multi-pronged response to a*

multifaceted problem”, in which both public and private bodies are involved at various levels (Akdeniz, 2008, p.2).

Despite the above-mentioned difficulties, police investigations have resulted in successful identification and subsequent prosecution of child pornography rings and individuals who have used the Internet to access, trade and create child pornography. Some of the cases involving child pornography are indicated in figure 2.1.

- "Operation Cathedral" was one of the largest international police child pornography operations ever mounted where the British police and Interpol uncovered a child pornography ring, called "The Wonderland Club", with 180 known members spread across 49 different identifiable countries. Between them, the members possessed over 750 000 child pornographic images and over 1 800 hours of digitised video. Images of over 1 200 different children were discovered by investigators. To join the club, each member had to post 10 000 original images of child abuse (www.telegraph.co.uk, 3 August 2001).
- ABC Newsroom (14 November 2001) reported the results of an FBI investigation known as "Operation Avalanche" into a child pornography website operated by Landslide Productions, involving a husband and wife team – Thomas and Janice Reedy, with subscriptions to websites offering child pornography. Landslide Productions grossed over \$1.4 million dollars (in profits) in one month, and, on investigation, revealed 35 000 individual subscribers. Both Thomas and Janice Reedy were eventually convicted and sentenced to years in prison.
- According to theprovince.com of 28 July 2010, an investigation of a Surrey man involved in the creation, distribution and possession of child pornography involving his own daughters, revealed information about men in Australia, Canada, the USA and South Africa who were members of his chat group sharing child pornography.
- On 16 January 2011, Global Online Communities reported the arrest of 49 people by the Spanish police. In cooperation with USA and UK law enforcement agents, an operation was launched to break up an international network of more than 200 child pornography websites.

- NBC News (5 August 2011) reported the arrest of 10 Kenyans involved in child pornography trade via the Internet, using sophisticated encryption. FBI investigations revealed, thus far, over 600 members from Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, the Netherlands, Philippines, Qatar, Serbia, Sweden and Switzerland, used a members-only Internet Bulletin Board – Dreamboard – to trade graphic images and video clips of adults sexually abusing children between 12 years and under a year. Dreamboard also created a huge private library, accessible only to its members, of child abuse images. Each member, to retain membership, was obliged to upload new and original images every 50 days.
- Reuters (26 August 2011) reported that a joint US-China operation cracked a “Chinese-language child pornography ring operated on a website in New York”. The man arrested by the FBI for operating dozens of Chinese-language child pornography websites was a 26-year-old Chinese man whose websites had more than 10 million members accessing graphic images of the sexual abuse of children.
- The Advertiser News, on 25 January 2011, published the story of a man who videotaped himself sexually abusing young children and was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. Almost 58 000 images and videos of child pornography were found on his computer. They included images of bondage and bestiality.
- The most recent child pornography case involving South Africans, Project Spade, began in October 2010 in Toronto, Canada. Inspector Joanna Beaven-Desjardins, head of Toronto’s Sex Crimes Unit said 30 police forces from South Africa, Australia, Spain, Ireland, Greece, Hong Kong, Mexico, Norway and the USA, among other countries, led to the rescue of 386 children, most of whom were prepubescent. The three-year Canadian-led operation netted 348 suspects from around the world. Among them were 108 Canadians, 76 Americans and 164 residents of other countries in Europe, Africa, Latin America and Asia. The list of suspects included nine clergymen, six police officers, 40 teachers and three foster parents. Globally, more than 350 000 images and over 9 000 videos of graphic child sexual abuse were seized (www.iol.co.za, 15 November 2013).

Figure 2.1: Investigated and prosecuted cases of child pornography



Given the covert nature of the industry, the extent of child pornography is difficult to assess. Since statistics on child pornography are not available, estimates can only be based on reported cases. The number of child pornography images revealed even in the few cases mentioned in figure 2.1 confirms estimates made by UNICEF that there are more than four million websites featuring sexually exploited minors, more than 200 new images are circulated daily and the production and distribution of child pornographic images generate between \$3 billion and \$20 billion a year globally. Also, there appear to be as many as two million consumers and traders of child pornography on the Internet. The following question is pertinent here: How many of these consumers and traders are South Africans?

As clearly shown in the cases cited in figure 2.1, the range of people involved in child pornography offences crosses boundaries of age, class, income and professions. Doctors, technicians, businessmen, teachers, media personalities and policemen, celebrities, judges, psychiatrists and priests are just a few of the kinds of people who have been found guilty of possession of child pornography in recent criminal proceedings. Offenders are not always adult males – women are also involved.

The harm inflicted on children as a result of child pornography is massive. Children are physically and psychologically affected and in some instances even killed during the production of child pornography. Moreover, the visual depiction of a child in a pornographic scenario causes feelings of shame and fear that family members and friends might discover the exploitation. Furthermore, a child may also be afraid of reporting the abuse and of testifying against the abuser in court (Campher & Bezuidenhout, 2007). Child pornography is not a victimless crime and the victims are not only the child victims depicted in images, but all children, and society itself. Hence, as postulated by Quayle and Taylor (2002), there is a need for psychological and technological initiatives to truly understand and address the challenge of managing child pornography on the Internet.

Internet pornography

At present, the Internet on both personal computers and cellular phones is the most likely medium used to access pornographic material. Online pornography is provided on websites both free of charge or for a fee. Websites with adult content can be found with the help of pornography search engines and directories. Pornographic material is also exchanged in peer-to-peer networks, online forums and online chat channels. Alongside soft- and hardcore pornography, illegal pornography constitutes a third form of sexually explicit content available online. Moreover, the Internet is not merely a new distribution channel for standard forms of pornography; it has facilitated the search and collection of specific images and development of new forms of pornography (Döring, 2009).

The market for pornography, like any other market, can be split into a supply and demand side (D'Orlando, 2009). Supporters and nonsupporters would both agree that pornography is a product for which millions of people in the Western world are prepared to pay billions of dollars every year. Internet pornography statistics revealed through a survey by TopTenREVIEWS (Ropelato, 2010) are staggering. The revenue generated by the pornography industry is larger than the combined revenues of technology companies, including Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple, Netflix and EarthLink (Ropelato, 2010). Reliable statistics relating to Internet pornography are limited and as indicated in table 2.1 below, the demand for Internet pornography, including child pornography, is noteworthy because an increasing number of individuals gain access to the Internet and view sexually explicit images.

Table 2.1: General internet pornography statistics

Pornographic websites	4.2 million (12% of total websites)
Pornographic pages	420 million
Daily pornographic search engine requests	68 million (25% of total search engine requests)
Daily pornographic e-mails	2.5 billion (8% of total e-mails)
Internet users who view porn	42.7%
Received unwanted exposure to sexual material	34%
Average daily pornographic e-mails/users	4.5 per Internet user
Monthly pornographic downloads (peer to peer)	1.5 billion (35% of all downloads)
Daily Gnutella "child pornography" requests	116 000
Websites offering illegal child pornography	100 000
Sexual solicitations of youth made in chat rooms	89%
Youths who received sexual solicitation	1 in 7
Worldwide visitors to pornographic web sites	72 million visitors to pornography: monthly
Internet pornography sales	\$4.9 billion

Source: TopTenREVIEWS survey, Ropelato (2010)

Since the introduction of the Internet, the sex industry has had close proximity to the home and work environments (Manning, 2006). It is clear from the Internet pornography statistics for adults presented in table 2.2 below that a significant number of adults access pornographic material online even at work and experience consequences relating to their viewing of sexually explicit images such as sexual addiction.

Table 2.2: Adult Internet pornography statistics

Men admitting to accessing pornography at work	20%
US adults who regularly visit Internet pornography websites	40 million
Promise Keeper men who viewed pornography in the last week	53%
Christians who said pornography is a major problem in the home	47%
Adults admitting to Internet sexual addiction	10%
Breakdown of male and female visitors to pornographic sites	72% males – 28 female

Source: TopTenREVIEWS survey, (Ropelato, 2010)

Besides adult men, adult women are increasingly becoming consumers of Internet pornography. It is speculated that women, far more than men, are likely to act out their behaviours in real life, such as having multiple partners or casual sex. Internet pornography statistics in particular for women are presented in table 2.3 below.

Table 2.3: Women Internet pornography statistics

Women keeping their cyber activities secret	70%
Women struggling with pornography addiction	17%
Ratio of women to men favouring chat rooms	2X
Proportion of visitors to adult websites who are women	1 in 3 visitors
Women accessing adult websites each month	9.4 million
Women admitting to accessing pornography at work	13%

Source: TopTenREVIEWS survey, (Ropelato, 2010)

Not only has the Internet afforded adults access to pornography with no effort, it has also increased the possibility of children being exposed to pornographic material. As indicated in table 2.4, children at a young age have easy access to pornographic material on the Internet, which in most instances, is harmful to children at their developmental level. Moreover, it is notable that children often engage in risky online behaviour such as freely giving out their home or e-mail address.

Table 2.4: Child Internet pornography statistics

Average age of first Internet exposure to pornography	11 years old
15-17 year olds having multiple hardcore exposures	80%
8-16 year olds having viewed porn online	90% (most while doing homework)
7-17 year olds who would freely give out home address	29%
7-17 year olds who would freely give out email address	14%
Children's character names linked to thousands of porn links	26 (including Pokemon and Action Man)

Source: Toptenreviews survey (Ropelato 2010)

Owing to the rapid growth of the Internet in particular, additional information and research are needed to consider the changing pornography environment and its influence on adults and children. Internet pornography specifically appears to be a growing yet understudied topic, with key identified influences being sexual addiction and escalation (D'Orlando, 2009). It can be argued that Internet pornography intensifies the influences of pornographic material on individuals because it tends to be more instantaneous and interactive than other mediums. This is a concern, given the fact that whereas researchers are still attempting to prove causality and reach agreement, pornographic material is transforming and with the influence of the new technology, especially the Internet, the influence on

human behaviour is becoming more powerful. The identified influence of pornography on human behaviour will be discussed in more detail in chapter 3.

Overview of censorship and regulation of pornography in South Africa

Much has been written on South African censorship. Merrett (1994), for example, wrote a comprehensive review of censorship pertaining to different forms of subject matter and media. For the purpose of this study, the focus will be on censorship pertaining to pornography.

The legislative history of censorship in South Africa goes back as far as the 18th century with the Obscene Publications Act 31 of 1892, aimed "to prevent the sale or exhibition of indecent or obscene books, pictures, prints and other articles" (FPB Annual Report, 1998, p. 1). In 1931, the Entertainments (Censorship) Act 29 of 1931 was enacted "to regulate and control the public exhibition and advertisement of cinematographic films and of pictures and the performance of public entertainments". The Act created a Board of Censors appointed by the Minister of the Interior, to examine "films and film advertisements intended for public exhibition in any place in the Union" with powers to approve or reject conditionally or unconditionally, any film intended for public exhibition (FPB Annual Report, 1998, p. 1).

The Entertainments Act was concerned with the control and regulation of films and public entertainment. Prior to this, there had been no control over publications and objects, except to the extent that the Customs Act provided for control over the importation of "undesirable" publications and objects. This resulted in the enactment of the Publications and Entertainment Act 26 of 1963. Under the Act, the display, circulation, continued publication and printing and import of titles deemed "undesirable" could be prohibited. The Act also established the Publications Control Board consisting of nine members who had the option of hearing evidence and consulting expert committees, although the right to appeal to a court of law within 30 days of a decision was allowed (Merrett, 1994).

The Publications Act 42 of 1974 replaced the Publications Control Board with a Directorate of Publications and provided a simpler but broader category of "undesirable" films, publications, objects or public entertainments which:

- are indecent or obscene or offensive to public morals;
- are blasphemous or offensive to the religious convictions or feelings of any section of the inhabitants of the Republic;
- bring any section of the inhabitants of the Republic into ridicule or contempt
- are harmful to the relations between any sections of the inhabitants of the Republic or
- are prejudicial to the safety of the State, the general welfare or the peace and good order (FPB Annual Report, 1998, p. 3)

After the advent of democracy in South Africa, the Constitution was to be the benchmark for all laws, rules and regulation. The Publications Act failed the test of constitutional scrutiny and the Films and Publications Act 65 of 1996 was promulgated in 1998. The Act was intended to strike a reasonable balance between the fundamental freedoms and rights in the Constitution and the duty of government to protect the vulnerable from exploitation and harm as well as contributing to the development of a democratic and human rights culture in South Africa (Chetty, 2002).

The Films and Publications Act 65 of 1996 provided for the classification and not censorship of films and publications. With the exception of child pornography, there is no prohibition on the possession for personal use of any film or publication. In entrusting the implementation of the Films and Publications Act to a Board appointed through a process of public nominations, the government wished to ensure that decisions of the Board would be informed not only by the provision of the Act and the Constitution, but also with reference to general community standards (Chetty, 2002).

The main characteristics of the Films and Publications Act 65 of 1996 can be summarised as follows (Chetty, 2002):

- The Act is founded on respect for freedom of expression, freedom of religion, the protection of children from harmful and disturbing materials, the protection of privacy and fair administrative justice.
- Appointments to the Board and Review Board are made by the President, acting on advice of an independent panel which has considered suitable candidates nominated by the public in an open and transparent process.
- The Boards are independent, but in implementing the Act, must have due regard to the Constitution, government policy and the principles of natural justice.
- The Board is required to heed the views of the public in establishing classification guidelines.
- The Act focuses mainly on public distribution and exhibition and authorises the invasion of privacy only where child pornography is concerned.
- Subject to section 26(4), the Act leaves broadcasting in the hands of the Broadcasting Monitoring and Complaints Committee of the Independent Broadcasting Authority or the Broadcasting Complaints Commission.
- The Act no longer applies to public entertainment.
- Bona fide literature, drama, documentaries and scientific materials, and with the exception of child pornography, art may be exempt from restricted classification.
- The Act limits its application to issues of sexuality, violence and religion and applies generally, in so far as children are concerned, to disturbing or harmful materials.
- Regarding sexuality and violence, the basis of proscription in the main is abuse or potential harm.
- The Act creates the possibility for freedom of choice for adults who may purchase or rent sexually explicit materials not falling within the XX category from licensed adult premises, which will be regulated and monitored by the Board to ensure the protection of children.
- The provision of consumer information in order to place adults in a better position to protect their children is an integral part of the classification process.

- The Act introduces the office of a coordinator who is responsible for the coordination and publication of measures taken by the Board under the Act.

The Films and Publications Act of 1996 was amended in 1999 (Government Gazette, Vol. 406, No. 19980), in 2004 (Government Gazette, Vol. 473, No. 26950) and again in 2009 (gazetted in September 2009). The purpose of the Act remains the protection of children from potentially disturbing and harmful materials in films, interactive computer games and publications, and makes child pornography in films, computer games, publications and on the Internet a punishable offence.

Regulation of pornography on the Internet: International and national attempts

Owing to the nature of the Internet, it challenges the traditional concept of content regulation, which is reliant upon tangibility in time and space (Akdeniz, 1997). One of the most frequently cited arguments against the regulation of pornographic material on the Internet is that it is a form of censorship and conflicts with freedom of speech and expression. Arguments in favour of regulating online content focus mainly on the need to protect children from viewing potentially harmful content on the Internet and the protection of individual and family values. Although debates on the topic often concluded that it is impossible to effectively manage pornographic material online, several attempts have been made by governments and private organisations worldwide, including legislation, computer-filtering software programs, education and awareness campaigns and public report structures such as hotlines.

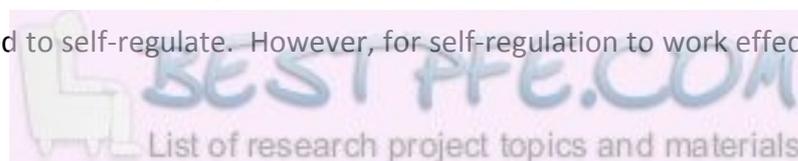
In the early 1990s, the USA was the first nation to adopt regulations specifically targeting the Internet. In 1996, the US Congress passed the Communications Decency Act (CDA) specifically targeting obscenity and child pornography on the Internet. However, according to Edick (1998), the CDA went too far towards repressing freedom of speech, because it extended government regulation into the traditionally protected area of indecency. In addition, there have been several efforts in the USA aimed at controlling access to content on the Internet, including software packages that are available for installation, in an attempt to restrict children's access to pornographic sites. Parental control features included on

some software and rating systems have also been introduced. Hence, Edick (1998) rightly states that in dealing with the Internet, the USA has explored various methods in an attempt to balance the constitutional right to freedom of speech against the protection of societal mores.

In contrast to the USA, the UK has merely attempted to extend existing obscenity laws to the Internet (Edick, 1998). However, Edick (1998) notes that because of the respective ways in which the USA and the UK define obscenity, it is likely that the UK will have more success applying its laws to content that may be harmful to children. In August 1996, Scotland Yard mounted a massive monitoring operation in which letters were sent to Internet companies specifying that certain newsgroups containing offensive articles, information and pictures should be removed from the worldwide system (Edick, 1998). The UK has also introduced a system of self-regulation whereby an independent body known as the Internet Watch Foundation has been made responsible for evaluating material circulated on the Internet and handling complaints about illegal practices. Another development in the UK was a move toward classifying Internet sites as broadcasts (Edick, 1998).

In addition to these attempts in the USA and the UK, INCORE (Internet Content Rating for Europe) was founded in Europe in 1997, and is coordinated by the UK Internet Watch Foundation. According to Kelly and Regan (2000), INCORE argues for a self-rating system and has received considerable support for developing such a system.

Internet service providers (ISPs) have been identified as playing a significant role in the regulation of online content and consequently there have been calls for a partnership between government and industry to strike the right balance in order to build confidence and protect consumers in the information age. There is an urgent need for openness, accountability and transparency in relation to regulatory initiatives aimed at Internet content at national level (Akdeniz, 2008). The ideal would be to move towards the self-regulation of Internet content and other Internet-related activities since ISPs are more specialised and have more knowledge and experience than policy makers and are therefore adequately equipped to self-regulate. However, for self-regulation to work effectively there



may be a need for a concept of co-regulation which is underpinned by legal regulation (Akdeniz, 2008).

While Internet service providers are not required to monitor the use of their services, the Films and Publications Amendment Act 3 of 2009, section 27A(1), stipulates certain obligations of ISPs that are legally binding.

Section 27A(1) of the Films and Publications Amendment Act 3 of 2009 imposes the following obligations on all ISPs in the Republic of South Africa:

- (1) Every Internet service provider shall-
 - (a) register with the Film and Publication Board in the manner prescribed by regulations made under this Act; and
 - (b) take all reasonable steps to prevent the use of their services for the hosting or distribution of child pornography.
- (2) If an Internet service provider has knowledge that its services are being used for the hosting or distribution of child pornography, such Internet service provider shall-
 - (a) take all reasonable steps to prevent access to the child pornography by any person;
 - (b) report the presence thereof, as well as the particulars of the person maintaining or hosting or distributing or in any manner contributing to such Internet address, to a police official of the South African Police Service; and
 - (c) take all reasonable steps to preserve such evidence for purposes of investigation and prosecution by the relevant authorities.

- (3) An Internet service provider shall, upon request by the South African Police Service, furnish the particulars of users who gained or attempted to gain access to an Internet address that contains child pornography.
- (4) Any person who—
- (a) fails to comply with subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and liable, upon conviction, to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to both a fine and such imprisonment; or
- (b) fails to comply with subsection (2) or (3) shall be guilty of an offence and liable, upon conviction, to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or to both a fine and such imprisonment.

Based on these obligations, ISPs are compelled to register and take steps to prevent the hosting of child pornography websites. They are also obligated by the amended Act to take steps if they have knowledge of any hosting or distribution of child pornography. This means that they have a duty to report the existence of such websites, and to provide the material and personal details of users who have gained or attempted to gain access to such material. Co-regulatory initiatives have the potential to play a key role in the regulation of online content, although developments are still in the pipeline.

The challenge to regulate sexually explicit online content persists, and according to Williams (2004), critical thinking plays a key role in individuals' actions regarding pornographic material; society needs to think why it wants to eliminate this material, what needs to be controlled and whether the present legal structure is the most effective way forward. *"Most importantly, we need to stop hiding behind the power of the law to mark our disapproval and disgust at sexual images of children and thinking that this is enough"* (Williams, 2004, p. 258).

However, critical thinking requires more knowledge of the nature of online pornographic content and a better understanding of the influence of exposure to this material on human behaviour. Further research is therefore required, and the researcher is hopeful that the outcome of this study will contribute considerably to the body of knowledge on the influences of pornography on human behaviour in relation to the sexual exploitation of children, as well as to the effective regulation of online pornographic material.

According to Akendiz (2008,) additional ways to contribute to the successful regulation of online content and the protection of children include the education of children as they are known to be technologically inclined. Exposure to pornographic material can have traumatic and distortive influences on children. They therefore need to be educated to recognise and avoid high-risk areas online, how to deal with possible exposure and take appropriate action against possible exploitation. However, to achieve this goal, such education needs to go beyond the school environment and start in the household and community.

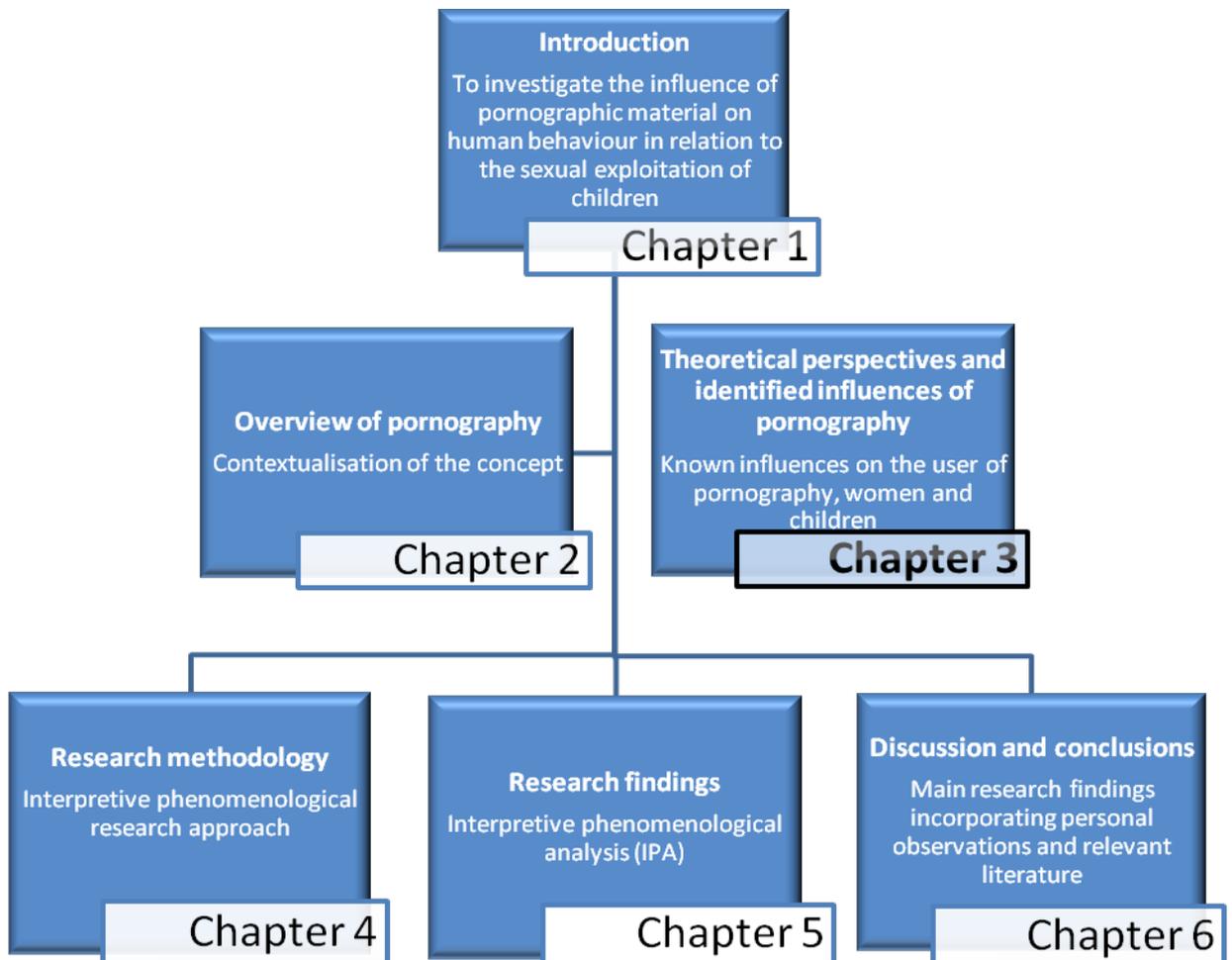
Based on this review of the literature, striking a balance between freedom of speech and the protection of family values, morals and children, appears to be necessary. The government's apparent difficulty with regulating content may speak to the need for a more systemic approach involving several societal sectors.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that pornography is a subjective term influenced by personal, social, cultural and legal factors. Therefore, as yet, there is no universally accepted definition of pornography and the concept needs to be viewed from different perspectives such as child protection. Owing to the transformation of pornographic material and its consumers, there is a consistent need to review the regulation of pornographic material on the Internet and protect children from the influence of exposure to sexually explicit images. This need has been recognised on international and national levels and attempts have been made by government and non-governmental institutions to effectively regulate pornographic material on the Internet. However, it is clear that a multidisciplinary approach is necessary and much needs to be done.

Chapter 3 deals with the theoretical perspectives related to the influences of pornography and present previous investigations into the possible influences of pornography on human behaviour.

Layout of the thesis: Chapter 3



CHAPTER 3

THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES AND IDENTIFIED INFLUENCES OF PORNOGRAPHY

Introduction

Pornography has always been a popular and intense topic of discussion. However, when discussing the possible influence of pornographic material on human behaviour, individuals express conflicting views. Some acknowledge the influence of pornography on human behaviour, while others start to question the reality of any significant influence.

This chapter provides an overview of different theoretical perspectives related to the influences of pornographic material on human behaviour. In order to ground the current study, it is important to consider different theoretical perspectives that explain aspects regarding the influence of pornography on human behaviour. Furthermore, the chapter will discuss previous investigations into the possible influence of pornography on human behaviour and identified effects. What has become clear in the available literature on pornography and its influence on human behaviour is that not all human beings who are exposed to pornographic material will experience the same influence. Experiences will differ according to, among other things, individual characteristics and personal history and environment. However, this does not trivialise the study of the influences of pornography on human behaviour, but emphasises the need to understand why pornography is problematic for certain individuals and how it can impact on their behaviour and ultimately affect those around them.

Theoretical perspectives on the influences of pornography

Three main theoretical views, namely the conservative moralist perspective, the feminist perspective and the liberal perspective dominate the debate on the influences of pornography. Linz and Malamuth (1993, p.5) broadly define these perspectives as follows:

[T]he conservative-moralist approach suggest[s] that sexually explicit materials often attack basic societal and religious values, and the reader or viewer may become desensitized to immoral acts in general. The feminist interpretation assumes that harm to all women in our society arises from portraying a woman as happy in sexual enslavement and as existing merely for the pleasure of men. Furthermore, there are harms to particular women from men who internalize this message and act upon it. In contrast to both these theories, the liberal perspective suggests that the story is harmless fantasy. Potentially a work of art, the story provides stimulation in the sex lives of some persons and may even be sexually liberating for the reader or viewer.

All three theories contribute significantly to the understanding of the influence of pornography on human behaviour by putting the research findings into a specific theoretical perspective. The three main theoretical views relating to the influences of pornography on human behaviour will be further discussed in the three subsections below.

Conservative moralist perspective

The basis of the conservative moralist perspective is morality – hence pornographic material is seen as harmful because what it portrays is against socially accepted morals and behaviour.

According to Linz and Malamuth (1993), the conservative moralist perspective is strongly guided by Christian teachings. Hence sex as portrayed in pornographic material is regarded as harmful since it includes elements of adultery, promiscuity and homosexuality, which undermine the values of fidelity, monogamous relationships, marriage and the family. The perspective further emphasises the fact that exposure to pornographic material may

negatively influence an individual's thoughts about sex and hinder his or her ability to limit sexual behaviour to traditionally morally acceptable contexts.

When the sexual thoughts and actions of many individuals in society are influenced by this message of permissiveness, a change in the general moral atmosphere occurs. Hence, in the light of the conservative moralist perspective, permitting pornography in the community is seen to undermine society by encouraging illicit sexual behaviour.

Regarding the regulation of pornographic material from a conservative moralist perspective, it can be argued that because government has the obligation to protect societal morality, pornographic material should be regulated (Linz & Malamuth, 1993).

Feminist perspective

The feminist perspective is based on a power relationship between men and women. Hence, the sexual subordination of women in pornographic material reflects, supports and encourages the sexual and social subordination of women.

According to the feminist perspective, what is deemed right or wrong in society is determined by who is in power, and men are currently in power. Men are thus able to force on women their ideas of what constitutes appropriate sexual relations. In terms of this perspective, the message portrayed of women in pornography as sexual objects and prostitutes, is dehumanising and degrading, which contributes to the subordination of women in society (Linz & Malamuth, 1993). Many feminists argue that the sexualisation of physical, sexual and emotional harm enacted against women in pornography leads to the social subordination of women and encourages sexual abuse of individuals (Seto et al., 2001).

According to Seto et al. (2001), other feminist writers have suggested that pornography is responsible for three kinds of harm. Firstly, pornography may cause direct harm to women. Antipornography feminists contend that many of the women who work in the sex trade, including models and actors in the pornography industry, are physically, sexually and

emotionally abused and are therefore victims of the industry. Secondly, pornography is deemed to promote violence directed against women, through its influences on attitudes and beliefs. Thirdly, pornography is deemed to cause social harm. Some feminists contend that pornography is detrimental to both women and men in that it socialises them into set gender categories. These authors argue that pornography encourages sexual passivity and the acceptance of victimisation of women and that it stunts men's emotional and interpersonal development.

Regarding the regulation of sexually explicit images, from a feministic perspective, regulation of pornography should not be the means for the government to preserve public morals. Instead, regulation should occur to prevent harm to women, which includes sexual harassment, discrimination and sexual assault (Linz & Malamuth, 1993).

Liberal perspective

Central to the liberal perspective is the notion of free thinking and rational choices. Openness of information is valued and should only be limited if such openness can cause harm to others.

The following assumptions underline the liberal perspective: most sexual depictions trigger fantasies that are not acted out – they merely provide stimulation to some individuals. As long as individuals restrict their sexual behaviour to private actions with consenting partners, the government should not restrict individuals' access to these ideas. Sexual depictions of mutually consenting and pleasurable expressions between adults can be socially beneficial, and the most effective regulation of pornographic material is in a context where ideas about sex and pornography can be openly debated (Linz & Malamuth, 1993).

In terms of the above, the regulation of pornographic material in South African is based on a liberal perspective. South African citizens who are 18 years and older, have free access to pornographic information, with the exception of child pornography, and are deemed capable of making informed viewing choices for themselves.

Within the three main theoretical perspectives on the influence of pornographic material on human behaviour are a number of theories that attempt to explain how viewing pornographic material affects individuals. These include the social learning theory, conditioning theory and excitation transfer theory. In addition, the ecological systems theory will also be discussed, as it is important to consider the relationship between the individual, pornography and the environment.

Social learning theory

Social learning theory, first described by Bandura, emphasises the importance of observing and modelling the behaviours, attitudes and emotional reactions of others. Hence, this theory proposes that people learn appropriate and inappropriate forms of behaviour by seeing others model them (Barwick, 2003). Bandura (in Seto et al., 2001) claims that the strength of observational learning depends on the rewards and punishments received by the model and the viewers' evaluation of the probability that they would attain the same reinforcement for performing a similar action. Bandura argues that observational learning can be more influenceive than direct learning because the rewards and punishments are clear and the depiction creates an expectation that the viewer would benefit in a similar manner from the same actions.

From a social learning perspective, sexually explicit material serves not only as a source of information about sexual behaviour, but also legitimises what it portrays. From this perspective, pornography serves as a source of information about the legitimacy of various forms of sexual behaviour and the responses of other parties; it demonstrates the objectification of women and legitimises the use of male coercion to gain sexual satisfaction (Allen, D'Alession, & Brezgel, 1995; Barwick, 2003). The social learning theory states that viewers of sexually explicit material will be inclined to imitate what they see if that behaviour has brought positive consequences to the actor on the screen.



According to Bauserman (1996), several implications of the influences of sexual materials can be derived from this theory. Firstly, the sexual material that should have the most direct influence on sexual offences would be material that actually portrays sexual coercion or sexual offences. Secondly, for sexually violent material to actually encourage sexually violent behaviours, it would have to portray either positive consequences or a lack of negative consequences. Sexual coercion should be disinhibited only if positive outcomes, or a lack of negative outcomes, occur for the observed aggressor. Thirdly, the influence would have to be strong enough to overcome any previously learnt inhibitions against sexual aggression or coercion towards women.

However, the influences of the material are not equally distributed across all individuals. Fisher and Barak (1991) rightly state that there is a cognitively active individual involved in perceiving and interpreting pornographic stimuli, with a lengthy reinforcement history and with extremely clear expectations about the consequences of extreme and unacceptable actions. Overall, Fisher and Barak (1991) emphasise that they believe that the individual and his or her learning history, internal restraints, values and expectancies have largely been lost in overly naïve conceptualisations of the possible influences of pornography. For a person who has been adequately socialised, pornography may in fact be a weak discrepant and marginal influence on behaviour. For an individual who has not been adequately socialised, but not for persons in general, pornography or any other media message may indeed produce antisocial influences (Fisher & Barak, 1991).

Conditioning theory

Classical conditioning involves a person learning through establishing associations between different events and stimuli. In terms of the influences of sexually explicit material, conditioning theory states that if viewers achieve sexual satisfaction through masturbation while watching sexually explicit material, the sexual content of the material will be reinforced, and those individuals will seek out more intense content as they become familiar with currently exciting material (Barwick, 2003).

Conditioning theories suggest that (1) the influence of pornography increases with continued exposure if the observer masturbates to orgasm or is otherwise reinforced while watching it; (2) the explicitness and content of pornography viewed shifts over time for habitual users; and (3) sex offenders use more unconventional pornography than nonoffenders (Seto et al., 2001).

Excitation transfer theory

Zillman (in Barwick, 2003; Bauserman, 1996), proposes the excitation transfer theory, also known as the arousability model. The excitation transfer theory supports a conservative moralist approach in that it suggests that all explicit material that sexually arouses has the potential to cause harm.

According to this theory, after exposure to physiologically arousing stimuli, residual arousal may intensify emotional and behavioural reactions to subsequent stimuli. The process is unconscious and the individual may not realise that his or her reaction is being influenced by the previous arousal. A key element of the theory is that arousal is the precursor to aggression and may be transferred from one situation to another. The theory holds that the degree of subsequent emotional or behavioural response is determined both by the level of physiological arousal to the earlier stimuli and by the predisposition of the subject to anger (Allen et al., 1995; Bauserman, 1996; Seto et al., 2001).

According to Bauserman (1996), the excitation transfer theory is perhaps most relevant to the use of pornography immediately before or during sexual offences, when increased sexual arousal may increase disinhibition and the likelihood of performing a sexual offence. The excitation transfer theory also implies no important distinction between the sources of the arousal that is transferred. Potentially any physically arousing activity could increase disinhibition and the likelihood of sexual aggression in individuals already predisposed to such behaviour.

As suggested by Allen et al. (1995), this theory predicts that (1) previously angered subjects will manifest higher levels of aggression after pornography exposure than control subjects, while unangered subjects exposed to pornography will not differ in their level of aggression when compared to controls; and (2) as the level of provocation (i.e. anger) prior to exposure to pornography increases, the greater the manifestation of aggression will be after exposure.

Ecological systems theory

Considering the influences of pornographic material on human behaviour, it is important to consider the ecological systems theory formulated by Bronfenbrenner in the 1970s (Bronfenbrenner, 1994). The ecological systems theory holds that human beings encounter different environments throughout their lifespan that may influence behaviour. According to Bronfenbrenner (1994) five subsystems support and guide human development including: the microsystem that refers to the immediate environment in which a person is operating, such as the family and neighbourhood; the mesosystem refers to the relationships between the microsystems in an individual's life; the exosystem refers to the environment in which an individual is not directly involved, which is external to his or her experience, but nonetheless affects him or her; the macrosystem which refers to the larger cultural context, including issues of cultural values and expectations, and the chronosystem which includes the transitions and shifts in an individual's lifespan.

The ecological systems theory emphasises the dynamic interplay between environmental and personal factors rather than focusing exclusively on environmental conditions and behaviour determinants. Therefore the influences of pornographic material on human behaviour cannot simply be understood in terms of individual features but more broadly as the cumulative impact of multiple environmental conditions that influence behaviour.

All the theoretical perspectives presented in this chapter explain variables of factors regarding the influence of pornographic material on human behaviour. According to Seto et al. (2001) some researchers are eclectic in their approach, incorporating elements of different theories when conducting and interpreting their studies. At the same time, many researchers do not make their theoretical perspective explicit and do not directly test hypotheses that can be derived from these theories. Using an eclectic theoretical perspective comprising of compatible aspects of several theoretical perspectives, the current study can attempt to further explain and predict the influences of pornographic material on human behaviour.

Investigations into the influences of pornography

In the following section of this chapter, the previously identified influences of pornography on human behaviour will be discussed. Establishing the influences of pornographic material on individuals and society is not a simple task. Across decades there have been several investigations and research studies relating to the influences of pornography, which demonstrate the concern about the potential harmful influences of pornographic material on individuals and society.

Since the early 1970s there have been several large international governmental investigations into pornography and its influences, including the following: the US Commission on Obscenity and Pornography (1970); the UK Longford Committee Report (1972); the US Attorney General's Committee on Pornography (1986); the Surgeon General's Workshop on Pornography and Public Health (1986); the Canadian Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution (1988); the Australian Joint Select Committee on Video Material (1988); and New Zealand's Ministerial Committee of Inquiry into Pornography (1989) (Allen et al., 1995; Seto et al., 2001). However, Allen et al. (1995) state that based on different perspectives about the nature of the existing influences, the recommendations and conclusions of these reports differ and the debate about the influences of pornographic material therefore continues at a professional as well as public level.

Moreover, in the research community, studies on the influence of pornography are ongoing (Cooper et al., 2000 in Perrin et al., 2008). Besides methodological flaws and possible subjectivity, the void of systemically focused research on pornography's influences is understandable when one considers the fact that the pornography debate has traditionally been entrenched in (1) linear, cause-and-influence assumptions; (2) a focus on the individual as the consumer or victim; (3) legal, feminist or moral perspectives; and (4) disputes over the continuum between censorship and freedom of speech (Thompson, Chaffee, & Oshagan, 1990, in Manning, 2006).

Although it seems unlikely that the controversy will be resolved, researchers continue to attempt to provide reliable research information on the influences of pornography on human behaviour, because there is no doubt that exposure to pornographic material is bound to have an influence on individuals and consequently their behaviour. Research is not fixed in time and it would be misguided to think that we have heard all there is to be said about the use of pornographic material and what pornography can and cannot lead to in terms of human behaviour or attitudes (Bensimon, 2007). One of the aims of this research study was to contribute to the available research information on the influences of pornography and diminish the ambivalent feelings towards pornographic material and its position in South African society.

Experimental designs

For decades, experimental studies were the main mode of empirical investigation into the potential causal role of pornography (Seto et al., 2001). Researchers investigated the influences of pornographic material on human behaviour mostly by exposing male university students to pornographic material and determining the influences immediately after. Examples of more recent experimental studies include the following: Bauserman (1998), McKenzie-Mohr & Zanna (1990) and Sinclair, Lee, and Johnson (1995).

Although experimental designs are prevalent in the research into the influences of pornography on human behaviour and the approach includes strengths such as high internal validity and the ability to directly test the possibility of a causal relationship, several reservations about experimental research designs are outlined, of which the chief reservation is that laboratory experiments on the study of pornography are not representative of the salient characteristics of natural settings. Cooper, Delmonico and Burg (2000) emphasise that assessing the influences of pornography on behaviour in controlled experiments ignores the element of choice in the real-life pornographic situation; study participants are presented with pornography, whereas in real life it has to be actively sought out. Moreover, the experimental research designs tend to ignore individual and cultural differences, which have been shown to be significant moderators of media influence. According to Barwick (2003) individual characteristics such as personality and family environment has shown to moderate the influences of sexually explicit material. Consequently, the poor analogues provided by laboratory research may tell us little or nothing about the influence of pornography in the real world (Fisher & Barak, 1991).

Zillmann (in Zillmann & Bryant, 1989), one of the most frequently cited researchers in the area of pornography's influences, rightly contends that the experimental design can be questioned when establishing lasting perceptual, attitudinal and behaviour consequences relating to exposure to pornography. This can be ascribed, firstly, to the fact that many influences of interest may manifest themselves only after repeated exposure to critical stimuli, and secondly, influences may be transient and without consequence for subsequent behaviour. Hence, in establishing the perceptual, attitudinal and behavioural consequences of the consumption of pornography, it would seem imperative to employ designs that accomplish (1) repeated exposure with between-exposure intervals that stimulate characteristic consumption patterns; and (2) delayed assessments of influences with an interval between consumption and influences that rules out that the influences are of trivial duration (Zillmann & Bryant, 1989).

According to Barwick (2003), the interest in conducting meta-analyses of experimental research on the influences of pornographic material has increased. Meta-analyses can be described as a statistical technique that treats a number of methodologically sound studies of a particular phenomenon as a single large experiment. Meta-analyses has a number of advantages such as generating more statistically meaningful results and providing compelling insight into the impact of pornography consumption on individual functioning (Barwick, 2003; Manning, 2006). Manning (2006) identified four meta-analyses, namely those of Allen et al. (1995), Allen, Emmers, Gebhardt, and Giery (1995), Malamuth, Addison, and Koss (2000) and Oddone-Paolucci, Genuis, and Violato (2000), which in particular, summarise the following key research areas that have shaped pornography-related research: (1) sexual deviance, (2) sexual perpetration, (3) intimate relationships, (4) rape myth acceptance, and (5) behavioural and sexual aggression.

In summary, although experimental studies were the main mode of investigation into the impact of pornography on human behaviour and revealed a number of significant outcomes related to individual functioning, it seems as though experimental studies into the influences of sexually explicit material have been less common in the last 15 years than between the mid-1970s and the late 1980s (Barwick, 2003). This might be mainly ascribed to methodological constraints as discussed in this subsection and ethical issues.

Non-experimental designs

When reviewing the available literature on pornographic material, it is evident that several research studies on the influences of pornographic material have been conducted using non-experimental designs. Examples of more recent nonexperimental studies into the influences of pornographic material include those of Barron (2000), Jensen (1998) and Shaw (1999).

Barwick (2003) identified a number of methodological advantages and disadvantages in a review of main non-experimental designs applied to assess the influence of pornographic material on individuals namely, population level analysis, naturalistic studies, qualitative

research and content analysis. Kutchinsky, a Danish professor of criminology, is the most widely cited supporter of population level analysis (Barwick, 2003). Much of Kutchinsky's work is based on a comparison between the availability of sexually explicit material and reported sex crimes in Denmark, Sweden, West Germany and the United-States from the mid-1960s to the mid-1980s. Kutchinsky's theory is that if sexually explicit material leads to sexually violent behaviour, there should be an increase in reported sex crimes in countries where sexually explicit material is more readily available. Examination of rape statistics in all four countries revealed that none of the countries saw an increase in non-sexual assaults and in fact, in the three European countries, the rate of increase in reported rape was less than the increase in non-sexual assault (Barwick, 2003; Diamond, 2009). Although population level correlational studies readily allow for the exploration of links between a wide range of variables, it is unable to prove conclusively any causal association between the variables. Furthermore, naturalistic studies allow behaviour to be observed in a natural setting, but frequently cannot provide adequate information on motivation or causality. Whilst qualitative research can provide an in-depth understanding of and insight into a sensitive topic such as pornography, it is often criticised for being subjective and with findings not able to be generalised to the population at large. Lastly, content analysis can throw light on some of the subtle definitional issues in determining what is degrading and what is non-degrading pornographic material, but the subjectivity of the assessment of what is and is not degrading is perceived as a methodological weakness (Barwick, 2003).

In conclusion, Fisher and Barak (1991) posit that the problems with theoretical naiveté, inconsistent evidence, failures to replicate and limited ecological validity leave us with far more questions than answers with respect to the prevalence and influences of pornography. It would thus seem premature to base public policy and legal judgments upon this uncertain set of findings, produced by experimental and non-experimental designs.

Identified influences of pornography

There is a vast amount of literature available on the influences of pornographic material on attitude and behaviour, and according to Foubert, Brosi, and Bannon (2011), it is difficult to find a methodologically sound study that shows a lack of some kind of harm when men view

pornography. Most research suggests the significant, negative influences of pornographic material on individuals (usually men) who view pornography (Foubert et al., 2011).

Over decades research on the influence of pornography focused mainly on the impact on attitude and behaviour towards women. In earlier multiple studies, men have exhibited a strengthening of beliefs and attitudes towards sexual aggression, sexual assault and rape in association with the use of pornography (Donnerstein, 1984; Donnerstein, Linz, & Penrod, 1987; Malamuth, 1981; Malamuth & Check, 1981; 1985; Zillmann & Bryant, 1984). Research aimed at investigating the relationship between the use of pornography and aggression against women has presented considerable evidence that pornography in general and aggressive pornography in particular seem to be causally related to aggression against women. For example, in the study by Malamuth and Check (1981), the researchers found that male subjects' acceptance of interpersonal aggression against women was increased by exposure to films portraying violent sexuality. Such exposure also facilitated the acceptance of rape myths. In their study, Zillmann and Bryant (1984) found that the more extravagant the pornographic stimulus is, the greater the facilitation of aggression. They found that after massive exposure to pornography, rape is apparently considered a lesser offence. The authors speculated that this influence results from the characteristic portrayal of women in pornography as being socially nondiscriminating, as being hysterically euphoric in response to just about any sexual or psychosexual stimulation, and as being eager to accommodate seemingly any and every sexual request.

Zillmann and Bryant (1984, 1988), renowned researchers in the field of pornography, identified notable influences of prolonged consumption of standard, nonviolent and commonly available pornography that can be summarised as follows: increased callousness towards women; trivialisation of rape as a criminal offence; distorted perceptions about sexuality; increased appetite for more deviant and bizarre types of pornography (escalation and addiction); devaluation of the importance of monogamy; decreased satisfaction with one's partner's sexual performance, affection and physical appearance; doubts about the value of marriage; a decreased desire to have children; and viewing nonmonogamous relationships as normal and natural behaviour (Drake, 1994, in Manning, 2006). Although

these influences were identified more than 20 years ago, research studies investigating the influence of pornographic material on behaviour today confirm these findings.

More recent meta-analyses and literature reviews have revealed in both experimental and nonexperimental studies that pornography use, acceptance of aggression and violence towards women are linked (Malamuth et al., 2000). These authors (2000) conducted one of the most thorough attempts to understand the association between pornography and sexual aggression. According to them, men who frequently view pornography report a stronger behavioural intent to rape. Moreover, research studies such as the meta-analysis conducted by Oddone-Paolucci et al. (2000) also suggest that increased exposure to pornographic material is significantly correlated to behavioural aggression, trivialisation of rape, greater acceptance of rape myths and a decrease in empathy and compassion towards the victims of sexual assault.

According to Attwood (2005), until recently, there has been a somewhat narrow focus of research on the influences of pornographic material on attitudes and behaviour, which results in gaps in our knowledge of the phenomenon. Many of the available research studies were conducted in the pre-Internet era and did not consider Internet pornography. Furthermore, today's pornography is described by researchers as far more shocking and extreme (Foubert et al., 2011). Researchers assessing the most popular pornography videos today found that 88% of the scenes included physical aggression towards women such as spanking, open-hand slapping, hair pulling, choking and bondage. The following question can be posed here: What influence does watching this level of violence in pornography have on men's attitudes and behaviour towards women and children (Foubert et al., 2011)? Hence, the research on the influence of pornography needs to extend beyond the previous narrow focus taking the evolution and development of society and the pornography industry into consideration.

Perrin et al. (2008, p. 12) provide a summary of potential adverse influences of pornographic material that extend further than the traditional identified influences relating to violence and attitudes towards women and go beyond the user and impact on vulnerable groups such as women and children. This summary is provided in table 3.1 below.

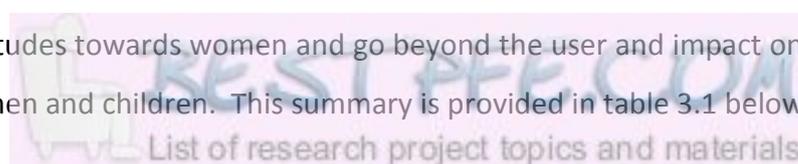


Table 3.1: Potential adverse influences of pornography

User	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexual addiction• Sexual acting out• Deviant sexual behaviour• Predisposes or intensifies the predisposition to rape women
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Higher likelihood to be described in sexualized terms• Forced to participate in violent sexual acts such as rape• More likely to be categorized in traditional gender roles• More likely to experience sex without emotional involvement• Broken marriages
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Become objects of sexual interest• Victims of sexual maltreatment and fantasies• Accessibility increases use of pornography as source of sex education, which creates future unrealistic and harmful attitudes towards sex and relationships

Source: Perrin et al. (2008, p. 12)

With reference to the potential adverse influences of pornography identified by Perrin et al. (2008), for the purpose of this study the potential influences of pornographic material on the user, women and children will be further discussed.

The influences of pornographic material on the user

When considering the potential influences of pornographic material on the user, it is clear that much remains unknown and for the purpose of the current study Internet sex addiction and sexual offending behaviour as identified possible influences of pornographic material on the user will be discussed.

Internet sex addiction

As with many of the Internet's technological predecessors, there are advantages and disadvantages to it. One huge advantage is that the Internet has transformed our culture significantly in the contexts of learning, social discourse and interpersonal relationships. One prominent disadvantage, however, is that it has created an environment free of social norms, boundaries and limited controls, in which individuals can pursue their sexual interests which may become uncontrolled or even deviant (McCarthy, 2010). The Internet offers endless possibilities for devotion to sexual pleasures through ready access to pornography, chatting with people who have similar sexual interests and engaging in online relationships, and even sexual deviant behaviour such as online sexual harassment and so-called "grooming" of children (Griffiths 2001; Levin, 2010).

Internet sex addiction is a relatively new, complex concept which typically involves online activities such as viewing, downloading and trading online pornography or engagement in sexually explicit adult chat rooms. It is a nonchemical addiction that involves all the core components of addiction, including salience, mood modification, tolerance, withdrawal, conflict and relapse (Bensimon, 2007; Griffiths, 2001; Young, 2008). According to Young (2001, in Young, 2008), users become comfortable with online forms of sex and experience changes in their behaviour or warning signs that they have become addicted. These warning signs include the following:

- They routinely spend significant amounts of time in chat rooms and private messaging with the sole purpose of finding online pornography or cybersex.
- They feel preoccupied with using the Internet to find on-line sexual activities.
- They frequently use anonymous communication to engage in sexual fantasies not typically carried out in real-life.
- They anticipate the next on-line session with the expectation of finding sexual arousal or gratification.
- They frequently move from cybersex to phone sex (or even real-life meetings).
- They hide their on-line interactions from significant others.

- They feel guilt or shame about their on-line use.
- They masturbate while online when they are engaged in looking at pornography or having erotic chats.
- They are less invested in their real-life sexual partners and prefer online pornography or cybersex as a primary form of sexual gratification.

According to Young (2008), Internet sex addiction is a progressive problem which follows a set of stages, including discovery, experimentation, escalation, compulsion and hopelessness. Bensimon (2007, p. 103) aptly describes the process of internet sex addiction as follows:

[W]hat begins as a simple pleasure gradually ends up imprisoning the person in a totally unreal dream world without him even being aware of it and gradually takes over his life to the point where he abandons many of his other activities. The purpose? To make contact with another person without the slightest restriction or limitation. Believing that he can control his computer screen, the person ends up settling comfortably into dependence and then becomes isolated from family friends and co-workers, with all the behavioral impacts.

Many researchers have attempted to explain the underlying factors involved in the development of Internet sex addiction. Cooper (1998) emphasises the characteristics of the Internet as accessibility, affordability and anonymity. These are known as the Triple-A engine, which allows individuals to access millions of pornographic websites, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Cooper (1998) asserts that the components of the Triple-A engine appear to be risk factors for Internet users who already have a problem with sexual compulsivity or those who have psychological vulnerabilities rendering them at risk for developing such compulsivity.

The extent of Internet sex addiction is unknown. Available statistics on Internet sex addition in the USA afflict approximately 8.5% of Internet users who go online for sexual pursuits (Cooper, Scherer, Boies, & Gordon, 1999, in Döring, 2009), which is equivalent to approximately 2% of all Internet users (Albright, 2008 in Döring, 2009). These individuals

frequently engage in excessive use of online pornography and the pertinent question here is – why online pornographic material?

Pornographic material can be highly addictive and viewing online pornographic images forms a significant part of Internet sexual addiction. More than a decade ago, Dr Judith Reisman (2004) called pornography an "erototoxin", which she describes as mind-altering drugs produced by the viewer's own brain that is responsible for having different effects on the viewer. She speculated that future brain studies would reveal that the surge of neurochemicals and hormones released when someone watches pornographic material has measurable negative influences on the brain.

Despite Reisman's (2004) statement, the investigation of the neurological influence of pornographic material on the brain is a recent phenomenon and limited reliable information is available when reviewing the literature on the influences of pornographic material. According to Struthers (2011), male and female brains are wired differently and significant neurochemicals are involved in sexual arousal and response when watching pornography. The first is testosterone, the male hormone that seems to drive sexual interest. The second neurochemical is dopamine, which is often referred to as a pleasure chemical. External and internal sexual cues, which can be produced by pornographic material or fantasies, can trigger the release of dopamine in key brain regions that are also sensitive to testosterone. The third neurochemical is norepinephrine, which has two functions in the development of sexual addictions. Firstly, norepinephrine is a significant player in promoting sexual arousal, and secondly, it helps to store memories of this event and causes these images to become stuck in the brain.

According to Goodman (1992), although there may be different reasons for having Internet sexual addiction, the way in which this addiction is dealt with is highly significant. *"Like alcoholics, and drug addicts, sex addicts are not responsible for having their addiction, nor for the feelings, fantasies and impulses it entails; but they are responsible for what they do about their addiction and for how they act in response to their feelings, fantasies and impulses"* (Goodman, 1992 p. 310). This highlights the need for appropriate support services and treatment strategies addressing Internet sex addiction and raises issues relating

to the effective regulation or control of online pornographic material to protect the vulnerable in society.

Sexual offending behaviour

A number of comprehensive theories related to sexual offending have been developed. These theories serve to explain the underlying factors of this type of behaviour and possible future abusive behaviour (Ward & Beech, 2006). Three of these theories including Finkelhor's precondition theory, Marshall and Barbaree's integrated theory and Ward and Beech (2006) integrated theory of sexual offending (ITSO) will be discussed in the following section.

Finkelhor's precondition theory was one of the first multi-factorial explanations developed to account for child sexual abuse. In his theory, Finkelhor set out to examine how individual psychological characteristics and broader socialisation patterns combine in order to facilitate abuse of children. Finkelhor identified four factors including; emotional congruence, sexual arousal, blockage and disinhibition. These four factors are grouped into four preconditions that must be satisfied before the sexual abuse of a child occurs (Ward & Beech, 2006). The first precondition suggests that the offender must be motivated to sexually abuse a child and encompasses three of the four identified factors including; emotional congruence, sexual arousal and blockage. The second precondition involves overcoming internal inhibitions and is related to the disinhibition factor, the third precondition involves overcoming external inhibitions or conditions that increase the possibility of offending and the final precondition suggests that the offender must overcome a child's resistance to the abuse for example giving gifts, desensitising a child and establishing emotional dependence (Ward & Beech, 2006). This model provides a clear framework for treatment goals and clinical innovation for men who sexually abuse children (Ward & Hudson, 2001). A major contribution of this model is that it recognises the need for a comprehensive assessment of an abuser together with an individual tailored treatment programme.

Marshall and Barbaree's integrated theory is a dynamic model and portrays sexual abuse as the outcome of multiple interacting factors (Ward, 2002). The interacting factors include biological, psychological, social, cultural and situational factors. This theory emphasises the developmental aspect and examines behavioural templates that are acquired in childhood and particularly adolescence.

According to the integrated theory the vulnerability factors interact with more transient situational elements such as stress, intoxication, strong negative affect, sexual stimuli and the presence of a potential victim to impair an individual's ability to control their behaviours resulting in a sexual offence. The reinforcing effects of deviant sexual activity and the development of cognitive distortions maintain offending. This reinforcement may be positive or negative in nature (Ward & Beech, 2006). Ward and Beech (2006) conclude that Marshall and Barbaree's integrated theory is a very sophisticated and powerful theory.

According to Ward and Beech (2006) the deeper seated biological and neuropsychological contributions that underlie the surface level causes have been neglected by the current explanations of child sexual abuse. Therefore they developed the Integrated Theory of Sexual Offending (ITSO) with the aim to address the shortfall in existing theories and also provide a way of unifying the existing competing theories. The authors identified three factors which interact continuously to provide the clinical vulnerability to sexual abuse, including biological factors (genetic inheritance and brain development), ecological niche factors (social, cultural and personal circumstances) and neuropsychological factors. Consequently, sexual offending occurs through the ongoing merging of distal and proximal factors that interact in a dynamic way (Ward & Beech, 2006).

The ITSO shows considerable potential for bringing together current theories related to sexual offending. Furthermore, the ISTO provides a multifaceted framework for the assessment and treatment of sexual offenders and help clinicians to focus on offenders unique problems.

According to Bensimon (2007), the research conducted to date has not clearly shown a direct cause-and-influence link between the use of pornographic material and sexual offending. Three reviews of research failed to find evidence that sex offenders used sexually explicit material differently from other comparable groups. Bauserman (1996) concluded that sex offenders typically do not have earlier or more unusual exposure to pornography in childhood or adolescence compared to non-offenders. Nutter and Kearns (1993) also looked at pornography use in the background of sex offenders. Although they found that sex offenders began masturbating earlier, and used sexually explicit material more frequently in their first masturbatory experience, they found no differences between adult sex offenders' use of pornography and that of non-sex offenders in their study. Seto et al (2001) also found no evidence that pornography played a larger or different role in the lives of sex offenders than of other groups.

However, the fact remains that many researchers agree that long-term exposure to pornographic material is bound to affect human behaviour, which may include unlawful conduct. This was confirmed by investigations conducted by the following researchers, among others: Linz, Donnerstein, and Penrod (1984), Marshall (1988), Zillmann (1989), and more recently, Thornhill and Palmer (2001).

According to Murrin and Laws (in Marshall, Laws, & Barbaree, 1999), the most frequently asked questions about the role pornography plays in contributing to sexual crimes are the following; Does exposure to pornography predispose persons to become sexually deviant? Does exposure to pornography cause those who are sexually deviant to commit sexual crimes? Or conversely: Does exposure to pornography suppress the urges of those sexual deviants who are likely to otherwise commit sexual crimes? Is pornography consumption simply part of a deviant lifestyle or does pornography consumption act to validate the belief supporting that lifestyle? Is there any difference in pornography consumption between those who commit sexual crimes and those who do not? In an attempt to address these questions, researchers adopt different research approaches to investigate the role of pornography in the aetiology and maintenance of sexual crimes, including examining the influences of sexually explicit material on sex offenders. The research methodology for the

current study involved in-depth interviews with sex offenders who had committed an offence against a child and had reported exposure to pornographic material. The research approach will be discussed in more detail in chapter 4.

While researchers continue to investigate the influence of pornographic material on sexual offending, the number of cases reported in the media exposing the use of pornographic material and the sexual exploitation of children cannot be ignored. These international and national cases provide strong support for the contention that the viewing of pornographic material, including child pornography, can and often does lead to sexual offending behaviour, especially against children. Two recent international and national cases are listed in figure 3.1.

- Tia Rigg (2010), Manchester, England. Tia was raped and murdered by her uncle, John Maden, who downloaded a collection of more than 2 000 explicit images from the Internet, including child pornography (www.dailymail.co.uk).
- Cezanne Visser (2010), Pretoria, South Africa, was sentenced to seven years in prison on charges, including soliciting a girl to commit indecent acts, indecently assaulting girls and the manufacture and possession of child pornography (www.news24.com). At the time of the current study, Cezanne Visser had been released on parole.

Figure 3.1: Recent international and national cases illustrating the use of pornographic material and sexual exploitation of children

The literature reveals that numerous studies have been conducted attempting to answer questions relating to the role of pornography in sexual offending against children. In 1988, Marshall conducted a well-known study investigating the use of pornographic material among sex offenders. The study was conducted among patients voluntarily attending a sexual offender clinic who admitted to having engaged in either forceful sexual acts with adult females or sex with children. Marshall interviewed the sex offenders regarding their use of sexually explicit material. The study identified the fact that both rapists and child molesters did not report any special access during adolescence to pornographic materials whose content reflected their offence.

Based on the outcome of this research study, Marshall (1988) reported that pornographic material was mainly used as an instigator to commit criminal acts. Just over a third of the child molesters and rapists who participated in the study, stated that they had at least occasionally been incited to commit an offence by exposure to one or the other type of the sexually explicit material specified in this study. For some of them, the role of sexual depictions as an instigation to offend had been accidental, or at least, the stimuli had not deliberately been sought out to excite them to offend. What is perhaps most relevant from Marshall's (1988) study is that even if exposure to pornography may simply incite a process, it clearly shows that pornography does have an influence on behaviour.

In 1990, Murrin and Laws reviewed a number of research studies on the role of pornography in the life of sex offenders and found some evidence that their use of the material differed from that of non-offenders in their sample, and furthermore, the patterns of use differed between types of sex offenders. According to Murrin and Laws (1990) pornography plays a much more important role in the life of a paedophile than that of a rapist.

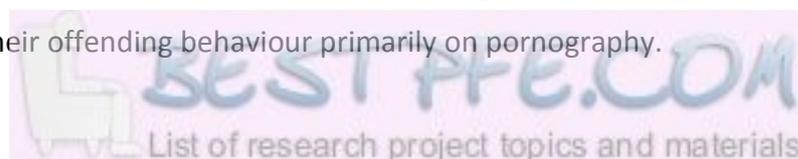
A recent study that addressed the role of pornography in the offending process is that of Proulx, Perreult, and Oumet (1999). The results of this study suggest that within the population of child molesters, there are two distinct pathways to offending, that is, coercive and noncoercive. Only the latter had generally used pornography and deviant sexual fantasies prior to their offence. As such, pornography had been used as part of committing a sexual offence against a child.

Owing to the development of technology, research studies investigating the influence of pornography in relation to sexual offences need to include the use of the Internet in relation to sexual offences. Sexual offenders can use the Internet to produce and distribute illegal sexual images of children or download such images for their own use. Furthermore, they can use the Internet to target and lure children for the purpose of sexual abuse (Marshall, O'Brien, Marshall, Booth, & Davis, 2012).

One study focusing on the use of the Internet and sexual offences was conducted by Quayle and Taylor (2002). They conducted interviews with men convicted of downloading child pornography from the Internet. The study reported that child pornography had mainly been used as a means to achieve sexual arousal and had been used as an aid to masturbation, both on- and offline. Moreover, the study found that the respondents had been highly selective in the material they had chosen, seeking out content that was arousing for them and which fitted their individual fantasies. For some Internet sex offenders, pornography was used as a substitute for actual offending, whereas for others it stimulated actual sexual offending behaviour and provided a blueprint for the offence (Quayle & Taylor, 2002). This may be ascribed to the fact that a wide range of pornographic material is available on the Internet, which is far more intense than the material conveyed through traditional means.

Similar findings were reported in a more recent study conducted by Bourke and Hernandez (2009), who reported on a sample of 155 child pornography offenders who participated in a prison-based sex offender treatment programme. According to the authors, a significant number of Internet sex offenders admitted to having committed actual sexual offences.

It remains a challenge to determine whether access to pornography directly increases the probability of sexually exploitive behaviour toward children. There generally appears to be a lack of consensus among researchers, based on the reported cases and the few research studies presented above. However, in an attempt to investigate whether access to pornographic material increases the probability of sexual exploitive behaviour towards children, it is important to consider the identified characteristics of sex offenders and their use of pornographic material. Marshall (2000) identified the following aspects regarding sex offenders when investigating the use of pornographic material in sexually deviant behaviour: (1) sex offenders are not a homogenous group of individuals; (2) it is not only sex offenders who use pornographic material; (3) sex offenders may use materials, not usually classified as pornographic material to facilitate their deviant fantasies; and (4) studies of pornography use have essentially relied on self-reports. Sex offenders might under-report the use of pornography out of fear that they will be judged or they might over-report in an attempt to blame their offending behaviour primarily on pornography.



In addition to the above aspects related to sex offenders and their use of sexually explicit material, Richards (2011) identified five misperceptions specifically related to child sex offenders that is relevant to the current study and will be briefly discussed. Firstly, Richards (2011) states that it is important to recognise that not all child sex offenders are paedophiles and conversely, not all paedophiles are child sex offenders. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (American Psychiatric Association, 1994, in Richards, 2011) provide the following criteria for diagnosing paedophilia:

- a. Over a period of at least 6 months, (the person has had) recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviours involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally aged 13 years or younger);
- b. The person has acted on these sexual urges, or the sexual urges or fantasies cause marked distress or interpersonal difficulty; and
- c. The person is at least 16 years and at least 5 years older than the child or children in Criterion a.

Consequently, while some child sex offenders are attracted to children, others may have sexual interest in both adults and children and may act out of opportunity rather than an exclusive sexual interest in children (Richards, 2011). Situational and environmental factors have been identified to play a role in sexual offending against children. Jonker and Du Preez (2012) state that most sex offenders grew up in dysfunctional family environments characterised by intense conflict and domestic violence. They never developed their personality or social skills to their fullest and usually have a low self-esteem and do not believe in themselves. Consequently, they are easily influenced by potentially harmful external influences such as pornography and become involved in deviant behaviour in an attempt to affirm themselves (Marshall, 1989).

Secondly, according to Richards (2011), it has been well-documented that most child sex offenders are known to their victims. However, it is noteworthy that, male children are abused by strangers at a much higher rate than female children, with nearly one in five male victims of child sexual abuse identifying a stranger as the offender (Richards, 2011).

Thirdly, Richards (2011) states that it is often argued that perpetrators of child sexual abuse have been victims of child sexual abuse themselves. Undoubtedly, a proportion of child sex offenders were themselves abused as children. However, child sex offenders may exaggerate claims of childhood victimisation to justify their offending or to elicit sympathy from therapists, courts and parole board members.

Fourthly, according to Richards (2011), child sex offenders are often constructed as compulsive recidivists who are certain to reoffend. However, it has been determined that some subgroups of child sex offenders have higher rates of recidivism than others. For example, those who offend against children in their own families have access to only a small number of children, thereby limiting opportunities for recidivism to occur. The research literature indicates that among a subset of child sex offenders – those who target male victims outside of their family – reoffending in the long term is more likely than for child sex offenders who target female and/or family member victims (Richards, 2011).

Lastly, Richards (2011) identified the misperception that by the time a child sex offender is detected, he will have committed a number of child sex offences. Determining the average number of victims of child sex offenders is a challenging task and estimates vary considerably.

An understanding of child sex offenders based on the available information presented above is critical when considering the role of pornography in the sexual exploitation of children and if child sexual abuse is to be prevented and responded to in effective ways. A wide range of professionals and processes deal with child sex offenders and could benefit from an accurate understanding of this population of offenders and their use of sexually explicit material. Jonker and Du Preez (2012) contend that the treatment of child sex offenders is a neglected area and every effort should be made to ensure that they receive therapeutic interventions. All child sexual offenders have individual differences and different levels of cognition, which necessitate different methods of behavioural intervention and treatment methods.

Prendergast (2004, in Jonker & Du Preez, 2012) suggest the following specialised treatment techniques that can be used when working with child sexual offenders:

- individual or group techniques
- verbal techniques in combination with psychotropic medication
- rational emotive techniques
- behaviour modification techniques
- cognitive behavioural techniques
- psychodynamic therapy
- self-help groups
- chemical or physical castration

Jonker and Du Preez (2012) rightly state that it is inevitable that incarcerated child sex offenders will eventually be paroled and released and then returned to the community where pornographic material is easily accessible and contact with children almost unavoidable. Hence ongoing therapeutic interventions with child sex offenders are of the utmost importance to prevent re-offences.

The influences of pornographic material on women

The impact of pornography on women can be explored in different ways, and it was only after the early 1980s that more research studies began to investigate the unique influences of pornography on women (Senn, 1993).

In addition to all women being affected either directly or indirectly by pornographic material, Foubert et al. (2011) emphasise that research has shown that men's use of pornography poses a particular threat to women who are either married to or are in committed relationships with men. Men's pornography viewing has been shown to be associated with unhealthy, less stable relationships. The bulk of available literature on the influences of a partner viewing pornography when in a relationship, centres around emotionally detached intimacy and intercourse, whereby emotional attachment is separated from sexual behaviour.

For example, viewing pornography has been associated with the following: (1) a decrease of interest in relational sexual intimacy (Bergner & Bridges, 2002); (2) an increase in egocentric sexual practices aimed at personal pleasure and with little regard to the pleasure of the engaging partner (Manning, 2006); (3) an increase in the belief that sexual satisfaction can be obtained without affection or emotional attachment (Manning, 2006); (4) an increase in the belief that relationships are sexually confining (Zillmann, 2000); and (5) a decrease of interest in monogamy and child rearing (Schneider, 2000).

A significant influence of pornography on women, which is not always well thought through, is how women experience their partners' viewing of pornographic material and how this impacts on their relationship. In their study, Bergner and Bridges (2002) claim that it is a traumatic experience for most women when they discover that their partner is viewing pornographic material. This has a three-leg influence. Despite the initial shock, it leads to a reappraisal of the relationship, a review of oneself and a review of one's partner. This is not surprising in the light of the intimate and complex nature of the relationship that is characterised, *inter alia*, by a need for mutual respect, commitment, admiration and sexual desire and intimacy.

The intensity of the impact on the relationship is clearly shown as the vast majority of women in Bergner and Bridges' study (2002) described it as if their partners were having an extramarital affair. It is common for women in a relationship with men who are viewing pornographic material to experience feelings of mistrust, unfaithfulness and anger (Fagan, 2009). Hence the relationship is reviewed and this leads to decreased intimacy. Furthermore, these women engage in a personal struggle characterised by feelings of being sexually undesirable, worthless and weak for not taking a stronger stand against the consumption of pornography. According to Barwick (2003), women report a sense of powerlessness over a partner's use of sexually explicit material, negative impacts on their self-esteem and body image, feelings of vulnerability and helplessness. Moreover, these women review their partner in terms of his character and personal worth and may feel ashamed of his behaviour and being in a relationship with such a person (Bergner & Bridges, 2002). This can have detrimental consequences for the individual and family. In families,

pornography use leads to marital dissatisfaction, infidelity, separation and divorce, all of which also have a negative impact on children (Fagan, 2009).

Although Bechara et al. (2003) found less negative and distressing attitudes among women in relationships with partners who use pornographic material, the reality of the emotional influence experienced by women cannot be underestimated. These authors (2003) note that further research is needed to determine how women in general view their partner's use of pornography. It would also be interesting to determine how the users of pornographic material perceive the influence of their pornography use on women.

Based on the available research information, it can be concluded that pornography significantly affects women in a variety of ways. Senn (1993) found that women respond to pornography in different ways, including the use of psychological coping mechanisms such as denial to alter their memories of experiences with pornography. Furthermore, they also take physical and even political steps to exclude pornography from their lives.

The influences of pornographic material on children

Children, like women, can be considered a vulnerable group that may be directly and indirectly affected by pornographic material. Children regularly have accidental or deliberate encounters with sexually explicit material, especially through the Internet. They may deliberately seek sexually explicit materials on- or offline, often with motives similar to those of adults, or they may be exposed to pornography accidentally or involuntarily. Moreover, they live in a culture increasingly saturated with sexualised representations. The following pertinent question arises here: What is the impact of exposure to pornographic material on children?

Manning (2006) considered the following reasons why children are considered particularly vulnerable to pornographic material: (1) children can easily be persuaded to view pornography or even be manipulated into the production of it; (2) children have limited ability to emotionally, cognitively and physiologically process pornographic material; (3) children may be the victims of another's pornography consumption in ways adults are often

more resilient to; (4) the exposure of children to false and/or traumatic messages relating to sexuality and relationships may have a negative influence on their sexual and social development; and (5) children may develop unrealistic expectations about their future sexual relationships.

Flood (2009) established that pornographic material may have stronger influences on children than other forms of sexual media and may even influence domains of sexuality that are relatively unaffected by other forms of sexual media. This can be ascribed to the fact that pornography shows a much higher degree of sexual explicitness than other sexual media, and the typical content in pornography is more sexist and hostile towards women than other sexual media content (Flood, 2009). If one considers the above-mentioned reasons, it is clear why pornographic material is restricted and illegal for children younger than 18. However, with the development of technology and the availability of sexually explicit material on the Internet it is more likely than before that children will be exposed to pornographic material, which is likely to influence their thoughts, feelings and behaviour.

Based on the review of a number of experimental and nonexperimental research studies, Flood (2009) suggests a number of effects of exposure to pornography among children and adolescents:

- Children and adolescents may be at a developmental stage where they are unaware of, inexperienced in or uninterested in sexual activities and consequently are shocked or disturbed by premature or inadvertent encounters with sexually explicit material.
- Children and adolescents, like adults, might be troubled or disgusted by images or accounts of unusual sexual behaviour, given the wide range of sexual activity found on the Internet. Owing to the nature of the Internet, children might be easily exposed to unusual sexual behaviour which might even be criminal, such as child pornography.
- Exposure to pornography among children and adolescents can influence their attitudes towards and adoption of particular sexual behaviours.

- Regular and frequent exposure to sexual content in mainstream media produces greater sexual knowledge and more liberal sexual attitudes among children and adolescents. In a study conducted by Fagan (2009) on the influences of pornography on children, adults and society as a whole, the author concluded that with children, pornography hinders the development of a healthy sexuality and distorts sexual attitudes and social realities.
- Exposure to sexual media can encourage girls and young women to see themselves primarily in sexual terms to equate their worth and appeal with narrow standards of physical attractiveness, and to see themselves as sexual objects – to focus on others' sexual interest in and judgement of them instead of their own desires and interests.
- According to Flood (2009), perhaps the most troubling impact of pornography on children and young people is its influence on sexual violence.
- Young people's use of pornography may have further negative impacts on their sexual and intimate relationships because research among adults highlights such impacts as decreased sexual intimacy perceived (and actual) infidelity and sexual addiction.

Childhood and adolescence are foundational developmental stages in the formation of habits, values, attitudes, beliefs and worldviews and children should be provided with age-appropriate and compelling materials on sex and sexuality. Pornography provides a distorted view of sexuality and can constrain healthy sexual development and even affect an individual's long-term success in marital and family relationships. Hence, preventing the exposure of children to pornographic material needs to be a top priority to be addressed by parents, policy makers and educators.

However, it is evident from the paucity of available literature that limited research has been conducted on this issue, especially on Internet pornography which may be considered a priority area for the youth (Manning, 2006). The limited availability of research information may be ascribed to, inter alia, ethical considerations when conducting research with children. In light of the development of technology and the likelihood of children being

exposed to pornographic material, this can be pinpointed as a priority research area for future studies investigating the influences of pornographic material.

In addition, it is important to note how children are indirectly affected by the use of pornography by a parent viewing pornographic material. Schneider (2000) conducted a study on the influences of cybersex addiction on the family, which, according to Manning (2006), provides one of the most ethical and credible indicators available of how online sexual activity, including Internet pornography, can affect children. Schneider (2000) identified the following negative influences for children when a parent manifests compulsive and/or addictive sexual behaviour:

- decreased parental time and attention
- encountering the pornographic material a parent has acquired
- encountering a parent masturbating
- overhearing a parent engaged in phone sex
- increased risk of parental separation and divorce
- increased risk of parental job loss and financial strain
- increased risk for consuming pornography themselves
- exposure to the objectification of human beings, especially women
- witnessing and/or being involved in parental conflict
- witnessing and/or experiencing stress in the home in relation to online sexual activities

Based on these and other findings, it should be noted that a parent's use of sexually explicit material either through the Internet or traditional means such as magazines and DVDs, is both varied and disturbing. What can be concluded from the information presented above is that parental viewing of pornographic material can impact on a healthy family life, which is imperative for the well-being of a growing child.

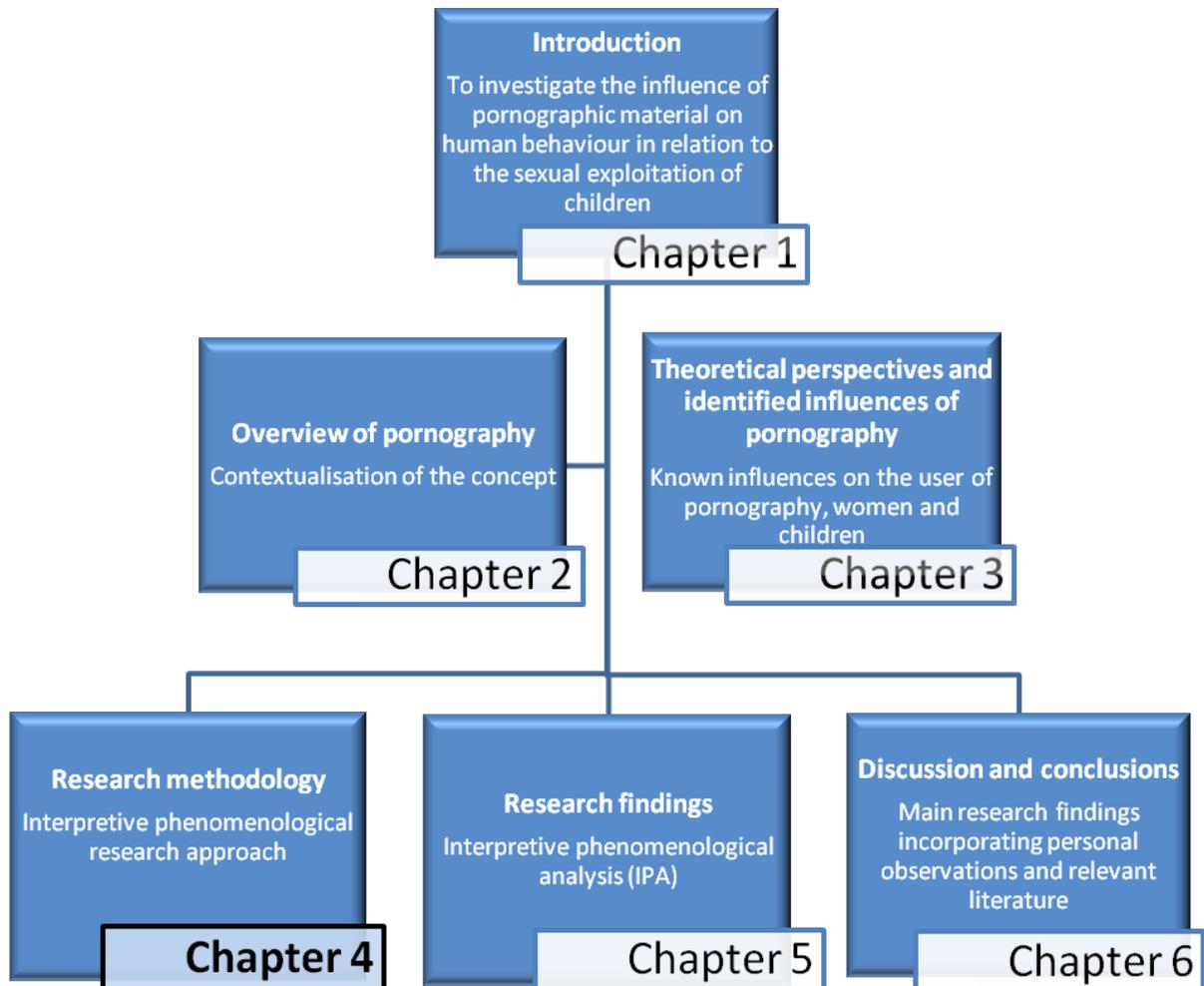
Conclusion

For many years researchers have been trying to establish whether use of pornographic material affects men's attitudes or behaviour towards women, yet we are not close to having a definitive answer. Recognising that research into the influences of sexually explicit material stems from a range of different theoretical perspectives helps us to understand why there is such disagreement among researchers. It gives us a framework within which to make an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the wide range of research designs and to contextualise the findings.

There is some consensus that the influences of non-violent sexually explicit material are less pronounced than the influences of sexually violent material. There is some agreement that not all people are affected by sexually explicit material in the same way. There appears to be no evidence that the availability of sexually explicit material leads to an increase in reported sex crimes and any differences between sex-offenders' use of sexually explicit material and that of other men are hard to find. Yet, it has an influence on women and children. It is clear that a lot more can be said about sexually explicit behaviour and the influence of pornography on human behaviour, families and society. Notwithstanding all the identified shortcomings and the need for continuous information, there is no doubt that pornography does influence human behaviour – hence the need for an ongoing investigation of the phenomenon in order to foster a better understanding of it.

It is necessary also to take it a step further and move beyond the endless pornography debate. With the growing incidence of the Internet era and Internet pornography, pornographic material is becoming increasingly more accessible and moving closer to people's surroundings such as the home and school. Researchers need to extend their investigations and look into issues such as problematic viewing behaviour and the treatment thereof as increasingly more individuals are likely to be exposed to pornographic material and be confronted with problematic behaviour such as Internet sexual addiction and sexually offensive behaviour.

Layout of the Thesis: Chapter 4



CHAPTER 4

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Introduction

The main aim of the study, as previously outlined in chapter 1, was to investigate the influence of exposure to pornography on human behaviour, particularly in relation to the sexual exploitation of children. A qualitative approach, employing an interpretive research method, was used to collect relevant research information.

In this chapter, the research approach and procedure, characteristics of the sample and data analysis that was applied to collect information relating to the aim of the study are discussed.

Research approach

Qualitative research is not a linear process and generally refers to an approach that allows a researcher to investigate people's experiences or behaviour in detail, by using research methods such as in-depth interviews (Hennink, Hutter & Bailey, 2011). A qualitative researcher is concerned with understanding an observation in a natural setting and the subjective exploration of reality from an insider's perspective (Fouche & Schurink, 2011).

According to Hennink et al. (2011, p. 9), *"one of the main distinctive features of qualitative research is that the approach allows the researcher to identify issues from the perspective of the participants and understand the meanings and interpretations that they give to behaviour, events or objects"*. The interpretive approach based on phenomenological principles in qualitative research is clearly demonstrated in the above quotation. For the purpose of this chapter, a brief outline of the origins and development of phenomenology and phenomenological research in psychology will be provided.

According to Larkin, Watts and Clifton (2006), phenomenology was originally conceptualised by the philosopher, Edmund Husserl. After it originated, phenomenology evolved, with diverse strands including existentialist, transcendental and hermeneutic, each with different interpretations and supporters (Tuohy, Cooney, Dowling, Murphy, & Sixsmith, 2013). According to Lawthom and Tindall (2011, p. 4) "*phenomenology is all about lived experience, the richness and texture of experience which is understood through rich engagement with another person's 'lifeworld'*". These authors distinguish between two major approaches to understanding lived experiences, namely descriptive and interpretive phenomenology.

Descriptive phenomenology is guided by the work of Husserl, who made human consciousness central to his view (Larkin et al., 2006). Smith (2004) asserts that consciousness should not be understood as being limited to awareness, but also includes preconscious and unconscious processes. The objective of descriptive phenomenology is to describe things as they appear to consciousness and to minimise any form of interpretation. According to Willig (2008), the focus of psychological research based on descriptive phenomenology is the phenomenon as it is experienced by the research participant instead of the phenomenon as a reality. To obtain the most detailed information from descriptive practices, Husserl introduced certain attitudinal modifications known as "epoche" or bracketing (Smith, 2004). According to Smith (2004), Husserl recommends that a researcher should bracket knowledge about the phenomenon being investigated that originates from other sources to ensure that there can be no influence from these sources on the phenomenon being researched. In other words, the researcher describes the phenomenon as accurately as possible refraining from any pre-given information.

In response to Husserl's view, Heidegger generated the view of a person as always a "person in context" (Larkin et al., 2006) and developed phenomenology from being philosophically oriented to a methodological research approach (Lawthom & Tindall, 2011). The aim of interpretive phenomenology, also referred to as "hermeneutics", is to describe, understand and interpret people's experiences. It does not separate description and interpretation, but argues that all description constitutes a form of interpretation (Willig, 2008).

In contrast to the descriptive phenomenological researcher who sets aside all knowledge of the phenomenon under investigation, in an attempt to present the phenomenon as it presents itself in a particular instance, the interpretive phenomenological researcher uses this knowledge to contribute to understanding (Willig, 2008). The author demonstrates this by citing the example of understanding a simple sentence. One cannot understand a whole sentence until one has made sense of the parts, that is, the words that make up the whole sentence. However, at the same time, one cannot make sense of a word's specific meaning until one has understood the sentence as a whole. This means that understanding requires a circular movement from presupposition to interpretation and back again. Our presuppositions are tested in the light of the evolving meaning of what we are trying to understand (Willig, 2008).

In line with the interpretive phenomenological research approach, the aim of this study was to explore the lived experiences of convicted sex offenders who had committed a sexual offence against a child and who had been exposed to pornographic material. The participants' experiences were explored through semistructured interviews, allowing these participants to give a narrative account of their experience and allowing the researcher to gain new understandings of the phenomena of interest. In the context of this study, Attwood (2005) argues that whatever the method, talking has emerged as a vitally important way of examining how pornography is used and experienced, or of exploring the range of attitudes, feelings, beliefs and political positions adopted in relation to a range of explicit media. Moreover, Jensen (1995) postulates that narrative accounts contribute to the understanding of not only how explicit media, but also how other images and representations in society, shape sexual behaviour.

Research design

In this study, the research design was influenced and guided by the research approach discussed above. The research design consisted of the sampling approach and procedure, data collection process and the analytical technique applied.

Sample

The research universe of the study consisted of all incarcerated and sentenced sex offenders who had committed a sexual offence involving a child (person under the age of 18 years) and where reported exposure to pornographic material had occurred. According to the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), South Africa has a total of 241 active correctional centres divided into 46 management areas which are grouped into six regions, with a total inmate population of 162 162. Of the total inmate population, 24 960 inmates, or approximately 15%, are categorised as sexual offenders (<http://www.dcs.gov.za/WebStatistics>).

In phenomenological research the primary aim of sampling is to collect specific information in order to access a deeper understanding of participants' experiences. Hence, the researcher used purposive sampling, a nonprobability sampling method, which allowed the researcher to sample participants in a strategic way according to a predetermined criteria for inclusion in the study, with due consideration of the objective of the research study and the restraints of conducting research among incarcerated sex offenders. Purposive sampling does not allow the researcher to generalize the findings to a population (Bryman, 2012). However, to ensure variety and a fairly representative sample across the geographical area of South Africa, the researcher initially identified five large correctional centres in the three leading provinces in South Africa. These included the Kgosi Mampuru II Management Area (previously known as the Pretoria Central Correctional Centre), Johannesburg Correctional Centre, Boksburg Correctional Centre, Westville Correctional Centre in Durban and Pollsmoor Correctional Centre in Cape Town (see table 4.1 below).

Table 4.1: Initial sample design

Name of correctional centre	Location	Estimated number of interviews
Kgosi Mampuru II Management Area (Pretoria Central)	Pretoria, Gauteng	10
Johannesburg Correctional Centre	Johannesburg, Gauteng	5
Boksburg Correctional Centre	Boksburg, Gauteng	5
Durban Westville Correctional Centre	Durban, KwaZulu-Natal	5
Pollsmoor Correctional Centre	Cape Town, Western Cape	5

After receiving permission from the DCS to proceed with the research study, the researcher and a guiding psychologist appointed by the DCS to support the researcher, arranged a preliminary meeting with the DCS psychologists based at different correctional centres in Gauteng.

The aims of the meeting were to familiarise the researcher with the environment, introduce the psychologists to the research study and request their assistance with the identification of potential participants. The psychologists were extremely supportive of the idea of conducting research on sex offenders and the possible influence of exposure to pornography on their behaviour. Most of the psychologists present at the meeting were providing therapeutic services to incarcerated sex offenders or were involved in sex offender programmes. However, it came to light that a number of sex offenders who fitted the research profile of the research study were based at other correctional centres that were not initially included in the sample. This resulted in the researcher again approaching the DCS and requesting permission to include the other identified correctional centres in the study. The realised final sample is indicated in table 4.2 below. The demographic information as specified in table 4.2 was applicable at the time of the interview and not at the time of the offence.

Table 4.2: Final sample

Participant *Fictitious name	Location	Gender	Age in years	Marital status	Home language	Education	Previous occupation
*Steve	Pretoria	Male	49	Divorced	English	Degree	Teacher
*Jacob	Cullinan	Male	52	Single	Afrikaans	Degree	Social worker
*Hannah	Johannesburg	Female	36	Married	Afrikaans	Grade 10	Bar lady
*Louis	Durban	Male	50	Divorced	English	Grade 12	Businessman
*Matthew	Cullinan	Male	51	Single	English	Diploma	Technician
*John	Cullinan	Male	33	Single	English	Grade 9	Security officer
*Markus	Mabopane	Male	48	Divorced	Afrikaans	Grade 12	Bus driver
*Frederick	Pretoria	Male	52	Married	Afrikaans	Grade 11	Process controller
*Ricky	Mabopane	Male	45	Single	English	N qualification	Fitter and turner
*Reinhard	Mabopane	Male	38	Single	Afrikaans	Grade 12	Instructor computer school

Participant *Fictitious name	Location	Gender	Age in years	Marital status	Home language	Education	Previous occupation
*Sam	Durban	Male	23	Single	Zulu	Grade 9	High school student
*Andre	Cape Town	Male	54	Divorced	Afrikaans	Grade 8	Painter
*Luke	Pretoria	Male	28	Single	Sotho	Grade 12	Cleaner
*Rudolph	Cullinan	Male	48	Divorced	Afrikaans	Grade 8	Businessman
*Hans	Cullinan	Male	32	Single	Afrikaans	Grade 9	Cook
*Herman	Cullinan	Male	45	Divorced	Afrikaans	Grade 12	Motivational speaker
*Martin	Cape Town	Male	55	Married	Afrikaans	Grade 8	Packer
*Angie	Johannesburg	Female	29	Single	Zulu	Grade 10	Security officer

Data collection

The researcher arranged follow-up sessions with the psychologists from DCS based at the identified correctional centre who indicated that they would be able to assist the researcher. During these sessions, the psychologists or social workers responsible for the psychological well-being of convicted sex offenders at the selected correctional centres identified potential participants who fitted the research profile and informed them about the study and enquired whether they would be willing to participate. In most instances, the correctional centres did not have a detailed system for accurately identifying sex offenders who had committed an offence against a child – hence the identification of participants depended primarily on the assistance of the psychologists or social workers, while in some instances personnel had to screen willing potential participants to ensure that they fitted the research profile. There may thus have been other potential participants at the correctional centres who were not identified.

After the identified sex offender had been informed about the research study and had agreed to participate, the researcher arranged a visit to the correctional centre to conduct the semistructured interview with the participant. The interviews were mostly conducted in the mornings between 08:00 and 13:00, so as not to interfere with the functioning of the correctional centre. The success of the research study depended hugely on the willingness and assistance received from DCS staff members. Overall, the researcher was positively received and supported throughout the duration of the data collection process.

The researcher had interaction with more than 60 sentenced sex offenders nationwide who were identified as potential participants by psychologists and social workers from DCS. Not all these sex offenders fitted the research profile of the study. For example, some had committed an offence against a child but did not clearly mention any exposure to pornography, whilst others mentioned exposure to pornography but committed an offence against a victim older than 18 years. However, overall, the interaction with all 60 sentenced sex offenders contributed to the understanding of the research subject.

To test the effectiveness of the interview guide, three pilot interviews were conducted at the Zonderwater Correctional Centre in April 2013. Following the pilot interviews, minor changes were made to the interview guide to improve the flow of the interview. A total of 18 semistructured interviews were finally conducted with sentenced sex offenders who fitted the research profile and agreed to participate in the study (see appendix A – letter of consent). This number was furthermore sufficient to obtain an acceptable level of saturation with little or no additional insights realised. According to Hennink et al. (2011), owing to the in-depth nature of qualitative research, only a small number of participants are required. The 18 participants interviewed in this study provided extensive information in line with the research objectives.

Interviews were conducted from April to October 2013 and took a minimum of two hours each, depending on the detail of the information shared by the participant. In some instances, the researcher spent up to four hours with participants who expressed the need to talk about their life experiences. All the interviews were conducted in an administrative section of the correctional centre, either in the psychologists' offices or in any available office. During the interviews, only the researcher and participant were present. During one interview in KwaZulu-Natal, an independent interpreter was present to assist with the translation of the interview from Zulu to English. All interviews were audio recorded and the researcher made field notes reflecting observations made during the interview to assist with the analysis and interpretation of the data.

In addition to the interviews with participants and field notes, the researcher had brief discussions with DCS psychologists or social workers who had contact with the participants and were familiar with their situation due to therapeutic intervention and participation in offender programmes presented within the correctional centre. Furthermore, the researcher also searched for available media reports about the participants and the crimes they had committed in an attempt to obtain as much information as possible and substantiate the information collected during the interview.

A concise portrayal of each participant, including demographic information, will be provided in chapter 5.

Research instrument

An interview guide containing a number of questions relating to the objectives of the study was developed by the researcher based on the review of available literature on pornographic material and the identified influence on human behaviour. The interview guide was submitted to the researcher's promoter and co-promoter, as well as a national and international industry expert for feedback (see appendix B). These experts included Advocate Iyavar Chetty and Dr Gavin Oxburgh. Advocate Chetty is internationally renowned for his expertise on child pornography and the development of related legislation. He was involved in drafting amendments to sections of the Films and Publications Act related to the protection of children and played a leading role in ensuring that South Africa's anti-child pornography laws met all the requirements for an effective and appropriate response to the global problem of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children. Dr Gavin Oxburgh is a consultant forensic psychologist and scientist from Newcastle University in the UK. He specialises in investigative interviewing of suspected sex offenders and was involved in numerous large investigations related to child pornography syndicates. All the comments of the promoters and other experts were considered and incorporated into the interview guide.

According to Bryman (2012) an interview guide developed for a semistructured interview, includes a list of questions or fairly specific topics to be covered, but the interviewee has a great deal of flexibility in how to reply. Questions may not follow exactly in the way outlined in the interview guide. Moreover, the researcher may ask questions that are not included in the guide by picking up on things said by interviewees. In the current study, the interview guide consisted of five sections with relevant questions intended to guide the interview and ensure that the necessary information in line with the research objective was collected. The participant had the opportunity to freely share his or her thoughts, feelings and experiences. In most instances during the interviews, the researcher did not refer to the interview guide because the information relating to the objectives of the study

spontaneously emerged during the interview. The researcher was able to probe or adapt questions based on the participant's responses.

The interview guide allowed for the collection of demographic information, including gender, age, home language, marital status, educational level and previous occupation.

The first section of the interview explored the personal background of the sex offender. During this section, the participant was allowed to freely discuss his or her childhood with reference to family, friends and education. This afforded the researcher and participant the opportunity to establish rapport and become comfortable with the interview situation. During this part of the interview, the researcher also attempted to move into the childhood of the participant and probed sexual development and possible sexual abuse during his or her earlier years of development.

Following the first section of the interview guide, the researcher then probed the nature of the offence committed and the sentence received. This set the scene for the second section, which dealt with the participant's exposure to pornographic material. If not spontaneously mentioned, the researcher explored in what way exposure to pornography had occurred, the types of pornography that had been viewed and what function pornographic material had fulfilled in the life of the participant. In section 3, the researcher also explored the use of pornography in sexual relationships with adult partners.

In section 4 of the interview guide, the perceived influence of pornographic material on the participant's attitudes and behaviours was investigated. The researcher probed the participants' feelings when viewing pornographic material, specifically towards children, and his or her thoughts, feelings and behaviour during and after watching pornography. Here, the researcher specifically referred back to the actual offence committed by the sex offender and how the exposure to pornographic material could possibly have contributed to the offence.

The last section of the interview guide, section 5, explored the protection of children in relation to pornographic material. The participant was allowed to freely share his or her ideas about the exposure of children to sexually explicit material.

Ethical considerations

Owing to the nature of qualitative research, ethical challenges in qualitative research may be more evident (Hennink et al., 2011). This can be ascribed to the fact that qualitative research methods are often applied to explore sensitive issues, such as sexuality, which require the researcher to establish a relationship with the participant and to keep all information confidential and anonymous. Furthermore, when exploring sensitive issues, participants might be required to recall disturbing memories or events that could cause emotional distress and need to be dealt with empathically and with the necessary professional support (Hennink et al., 2011).

The research procedure was designed in such a manner that it neither harmed nor offended the participants in any way. The researcher received written approval to proceed with the research study from the Research Ethics Committee of the Bureau of Market Research at Unisa (see appendix C) and the Department of Correctional Services, Policy Coordination and Research on 10 December 2012 (see appendix D). The following guiding principles were applied before, during and after the data collection process:

- All the participants were clearly informed about the objective of the proposed study and research procedure. This was done during the initial identification process by the psychologist or social worker based at the selected correctional centre and by the researcher prior to conducting the interview.
- All the participants voluntarily participated in the research study and completed a written consent form in advance. The advantage of the written consent form was that it gave the participants the opportunity to be fully informed of the nature of the study and the implications of their participation at the outset. Furthermore, it

protected the researcher by having a signed record of consent should any concerns or queries be raised.

- Participation was anonymous and all information was treated confidentially. The participants were clearly informed by the researcher that the interviews would be audio recorded and that notes would be taken during the interview. As far as possible the researcher attempted to avoid using the participant's name during the interview to protect his or her identity.
- Particulars on how the information would be used by the researcher were shared with all participants. The participants were afforded the opportunity to access the final report incorporating their participation, based on their request.
- The researcher reported any signs of emotional distress to the DCS psychologist responsible for the psychological well-being of the participant.

Data analysis

The researcher used interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) to analyse the research information collected during the data collection process. According to Larkin et al. (2006, p. 110) *"in choosing IPA for a research project, we commit ourselves to exploring, describing, interpreting, and situating the means by which our participants make sense of their experience"*.

The aim of IPA is to explore in detail participants' lived experiences and how they make sense of these personal experiences (Smith & Osborn, 2003; Smith, 2004). Although IPA is clearly phenomenological in that it is concerned with a participant's perceptions of lived experiences, it also recognises the fundamental role of the researcher trying to move into the lived world of the participant and making sense of his or her experiences. A double hermeneutic is therefore involved: The participants are trying to make sense of their worlds; the researcher is trying to make sense of the participants trying to make sense of their worlds (Smith & Osborn, 2003; Smith & Osborn, 2008).

IPA is an intricate process and can be used in a wide array of areas (Smith, 2004). Any human experience can be subjected to IPA, which makes this approach even more appealing to psychological researchers (Willig, 2008). Smith (2004) describes the three distinctive features of IPA as follows: (1) IPA is strongly idiographic, given the fact that it deals with the detailed analysis of one case at a time before an attempt is made to conduct a cross-case analysis. In order to do this detailed analysis effectively, most IPA studies are conducted on a small number of participants because the aim is not to make general statements but rather to provide detailed information on a particular group, such as the sex offenders who participated in this study. (2) IPA is inductive in that it is flexible enough to allow unanticipated information to emerge during the analysis. (3) IPA interrogates existing research. It operates at a level grounded in the text but also moves beyond the text to a more interpretative and psychological level (Smith, 2004).

IPA is a specific psychological research method. The introduction of IPA into psychology has made phenomenological methodology accessible to those who do not have a philosophical background (Willig, 2008). It encourages researchers to be innovative and creative in their approach to analysis. However, IPA, as with any other form of analysis, has certain limitations that should be noted.

Willig (2008) argues that IPA depends on language as the means by which participants communicate their experience to the researcher. However, language constructs rather than describes reality – that is, the words used by a participant in a research study, construct a particular version of the experience under investigation, making direct access to someone's experience almost impossible. The author further argues that the aim of phenomenological research is to gain a better understanding of the essence of the phenomenon under investigation in order to capture the experiences and meanings associated with the phenomenon. This leads to the question whether a participant's account of the phenomenon under investigation will contain material suitable for IPA. Willig (2008) also highlights the limitation that phenomenological research describes lived experiences but does not attempt to explain them.

The IPA process

When approaching data analysis using IPA, Larkin et al. (2006) argue that the first objective is simply to produce a clear, third-person and psychologically informed description, which tries to get as close to the participant's view as possible. The second objective is to develop a more overtly interpretative analysis, which positions the initial description in relation to a wider social, cultural and perhaps even theoretical context. Larkin et al. (2006) further argue that the interpretative analysis actually affords the researcher the opportunity to deal with the research data in a more speculative fashion, to think about what it means for the participants to have made these claims and to have expressed these feelings and concerns in this particular situation. Throughout the data analysis process, however, it is essential for the IPA to be firmly rooted in what the participants are actually saying, with direct quotations being used widely to substantiate findings (Pringle, Drummond, McLafferty & Hendry, 2011).

Although the IPA process can be described in a series of steps, these are only guidelines that are open to variation in a particular research situation (Pringle et al., 2011). Smith and Osborn (2008) provide clear guidelines that can be applied when analysing research data. A similar process was followed by the researcher to analyse the research information resulting from the semistructured interviews conducted during the study. The research findings will be presented in chapter 5 and discussed in chapter 6.

The first step in the analysis process is to read the transcript a number of times and familiarise oneself with the contents. Since the researcher conducted each interview personally, by reading the transcript the researcher could clearly recall the particular interview. During this process, the researcher used the left-hand margin of the transcript to make notes or write exploratory comments. According to Smith and Osborn (2008), there are no rules on what is commented on, and these comments can include summaries of information, making associations and connections between the information or even doing some preliminary interpretation of the information. Some parts of the transcripts were richer than others and had more commentary. On completion of this process, the

researcher returned to the beginning of the transcript and started to document emerging themes in the right-hand margin of the transcript. This process moves the analysis to a higher level of thought and may involve the use of more psychological terminology. However, it is important at all times to have a thread back to what the participant actually said and the initial response of the researcher should be apparent (Smith & Osborn, 2008). The transformation of the initial notes into themes was continued through the whole transcript. Following this process, all the identified themes were listed in the order in which they had emerged and the researcher started to look for connections between the themes. This involves a more analytical or theoretical ordering; some themes will cluster together into superordinate themes made up of subordinate themes (Smith & Osborn, 2008). As the clustering of themes emerges, it is necessary for each theme to be represented by data in the transcript (Smith & Osborn, 2008). Next, the researcher produced a table of the themes. The table lists the themes which go with each superordinate theme, and an identifier is added to each instance to help organise the analysis and facilitate finding the original source subsequently (Smith & Osborn, 2008). The identifier indicates where in the transcript examples of each theme can be found by giving key words from the particular extract, plus the page number of the transcript.

Working with a larger number of transcripts, as in the case of the research study (18 transcripts), the researcher used the master themes identified from the first transcript and identified further themes in the following transcripts. However, because the IPA process is cyclical, the researcher went back and forth through the transcripts and over the phases of analysis several times.

Validity and reliability

Babbie and Mouton (2001) argue that researchers should attempt to conduct truly valid and reliable studies. However, in reality, researchers are never able to achieve this completely. The concepts of validity and reliability are mostly associated with quantitative research and cannot be applied in a similar way to qualitative research. According to Golafshani (2003), the validity and reliability of qualitative research depends a great deal on the ability and effort of the researcher.

Validity and reliability in qualitative research are conceptualised as trustworthiness, consistency and quality. The primary test of any qualitative study is its quality (Golafshani, 2003), and Yardley (2000) proposes the following four criteria for assessing quality. These principles include the following and will be discussed briefly:

- sensitivity to context
- commitment and rigour
- transparency and coherence
- impact and importance

A sound qualitative study should demonstrate sensitivity to the context in which the study is conducted as well as to potentially relevant theoretical positions and ethical issues (Yardley, 2000). According to Yardley (2000), this can be proven through the following: A researcher showing awareness of the exiting literature; the degree to which the study is sensitive to the data itself; attending to how the sociocultural milieu in which the study takes place may have influenced its conduct and outcome; and the relationship between the researcher and participant. In the current study, the researcher conducted an extensive literature review on pornographic material and its influence on human behaviour. The researcher followed clear ethical principles prior to, during and after conducting the interviews to protect the rights and welfare of the participants. All the participants were willing to share information with the researcher, and in some instances, indicated that they would like to spend more time with the researcher because the contact contributed to the restorative process. The researcher experienced the contact with the participants to be constructive.

Yardley (2000) argues that commitment and rigour correspond to the usual expectations for thoroughness in data collection, analysis and reporting in any kind of research. Commitment can be verified by the degree of engagement demonstrated by the researcher in a number of areas relating to the research study. Rigour refers to the thoroughness of the study in terms of the appropriateness of the sample to the question in hand and thorough data collection and analysis. The researcher used purposive sampling which

allowed her to strategically select participants for participation in the research study. She used several quotations from the transcripts of the actual interviews to substantiate the research findings and included other research information such as the field-notes based on personal observations made during the interviewing process. The provision of such detailed information originating from the interviews contributes to the overall trustworthiness of the research study, as explained by Van der Riet and Durrheim (2006).

Transparency and coherence refer to how clearly the stages of the research process are outlined in the write-up of the study (Yardley, 2000). In this chapter, the researcher clearly described the research design, how the participants were selected and how the interviews were conducted. In addition, the researcher also clearly described how the analysis of the information collected during the interviews was conducted.

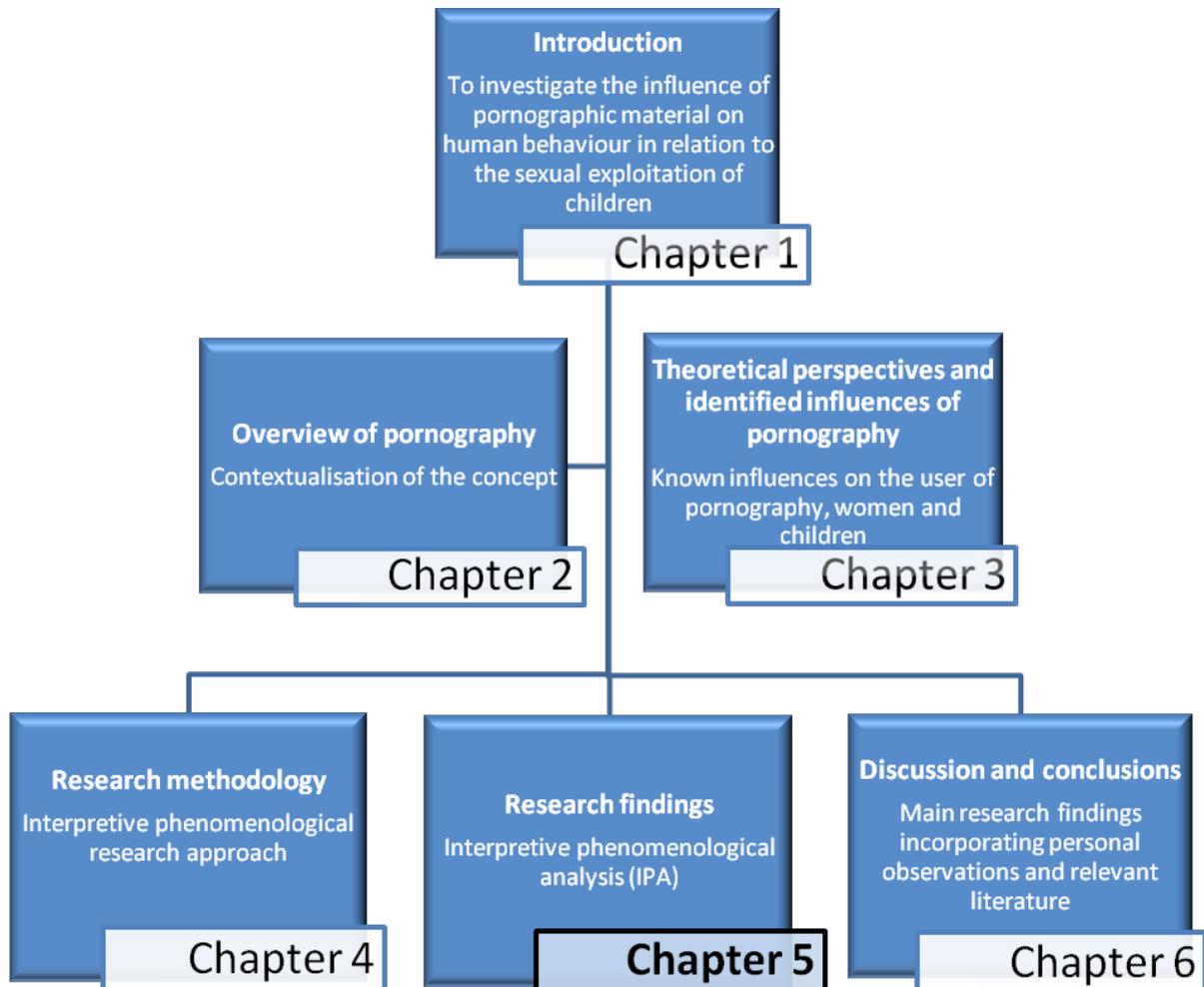
The decisive criterion for judging any piece of research is its impact and importance (Yardley, 2000). In other words, does the research tell us anything useful, and does it have an influence on beliefs and actions? Yardley (2000) contends that there are many varieties of usefulness. In addition to the theoretical and practical impact of a research study, many qualitative researchers are concerned with its sociocultural impact. The researcher hoped that the research study would contribute considerably to the available body of knowledge on the influences of pornographic material on human behaviour in the South African context. Besides contributing to the existing body of knowledge, the researcher's expectation is that the study will identify new areas in the field of pornography research, which is important but seldom investigated by other researchers. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the study will have a practical impact on both the development of policies on the regulation of pornographic material and the protection of children as well as the development of appropriate treatment initiatives for child sex offenders detained in correctional centres.

Conclusion

This chapter provided detailed information on the approach and procedure followed to obtain relevant research information consistent with the research objectives. Semistructured interviews were conducted with incarcerated and sentenced sex offenders who had committed a sexual offence against a child and had reported exposure to pornographic material. The importance of ethical principles was recognised and ethical considerations followed before, during and after collection of the research information that was reported in this chapter. IPA was used to analyse the research information gathered during the semi-structured interviews and aspects related to the validity and reliability of qualitative research were also presented.

The research findings will be presented in the following chapter, together with a concise portrayal of each of the sex offenders who participated in the research study. The research findings will be discussed in chapter 6, incorporating available literature and personal observations.

Layout of the Thesis: Chapter 5



CHAPTER 5

RESEARCH FINDINGS

“If you hear about a sexual crime and rape, many people take it very serious[ly]. They make a big issue out of it. But people don’t think what really happened, what caused it.”
(T10, p. 23*)

Introduction

As indicated in the previous chapter, approximately 15% of inmates in South Africa are categorised as sex offenders and those who committed a sexual offence involving a child are represented by the participants who took part in the research study. All participants were willing to share with the researcher information relating to the research objectives and it was observed that the male participants who had been incarcerated for a longer period of time appeared to be more comfortable with sharing extensive information, while others experienced the information-sharing process as part of the restorative process.

This chapter will provide a brief overview of each participant who took part in the research study and present the research findings that emerged from the information shared by the participants.

Profile of participants

A total of 18 semi-structured interviews were conducted with incarcerated sex offenders who had committed a sexual offence against a child (person under the age of 18) and where reported exposure to pornographic material had occurred. The next section provides an individual profile of each participant. To protect the identity of the participants, fictitious names were used.

- Steve, a homosexual 49-year-old school teacher, is serving a sentence of 16 years for the indecent assault of school boys. This is his second sentence for the same offence. Steve is the youngest of three children and reported a childhood of rejection and emotional neglect. He specifically referred to his mother as being a "religious nut" and his father as being violent. He later became a teacher, and despite being homosexual, married a woman to be socially acceptable. The marriage was distressful, and Steve no longer has contact with the three children who were born of the marriage. His initial exposure to pornographic material occurred through his father and he later became addicted to pornography: *"because you don't have normal relationships with people, you can't get yourself to cross over that you actually have a sexual relationship and get satisfaction, pornography is the only way that you can"*. Steve reported being a sensitive, emotional human being who is traumatised by life and its events. He strongly feels that the criminal justice system and correctional centres in particular do not meet the specific needs of sex offenders, and the environment creates even more problems.
- Jacob, a 52-year-old social worker, is serving a 20-year sentence for indecent assault and exposing male minors to pornographic material. He grew up in a family with firm Christian values. Jacob reported that his childhood had been untroubled. His parents had been happily married and he still maintains good relations with his older brother and younger sister. Both his parents passed away and he describes himself as a "mamma's boy"; because of his small physique, his mother always protected and nurtured him. He describes himself as an "intellectual thinker" and someone who had good relations with his peers, male and female. Despite having some sexual relations with females, he never married. His first exposure to pornographic material occurred through a friend exposing him to pornographic magazines; he continued to occasionally buy pornographic magazines, which he eventually used as an aid in luring and molesting young boys: *"if it is your goal to seduce a young boy, then you will use everything at your disposal and pornography landed in my lap like a ripe apple, it was an aid for the wrong reason"*.

- Hannah, a 36-year-old married bar lady, is serving two life sentences for the abuse and rape of her two daughters aged three and five years, who were sold to others for sexual purposes. Hannah completed a grade 10 certificate. She never knew her biological father and grew up with her mother and stepfather. She reported that she had been raped and molested as a child by members of her stepfamily. At the age of 15, she met her husband who was also the co-accused in her case. She became pregnant at the age of 16 and the relationship with her husband was unstable and extremely abusive. She said that she had been emotionally, physically and sexually abused by her husband who was a heavy drinker and unfaithful to her. Hannah reported that her husband had consumed explicit pornography extensively, including pornography with young girls. He had also invited her to view pornographic DVDs with him and had forced her to perform certain sexual acts that they had seen in the pornographic DVDs. She had also viewed pornographic magazines and enjoyed reading the stories in the magazines. She eventually ran away from her husband with her two children after fearing for their lives. She had struggled to provide for the children and they were eventually placed in foster care.
- Louis, a 50-year-old businessman, is serving a 20-year sentence for the indecent assault, rape and exposure of his two stepdaughters to pornographic material. He was married twice and has three children, whom he had fathered, and two stepdaughters. Louis' father passed away in a motorcar accident when he was a baby and he grew up with his mother. He has no siblings. He said that he had been sexually abused as a child by a friend of the family and had had his first exposure to pornographic material when he was about 15 years old at boarding school. Louis reported regular and continuous consumption of pornographic material throughout his life and had a number of sexual relationships with women. He described himself as being open about sexual matters and at one stage was a nudist. He said that he had had a collection of pornographic material and had also watched pornographic material with his wife for whom he had also bought pornographic magazines. He reported that he had only watched heterosexual pornography, no child pornography. Elaborating on the offences with his stepdaughters and the use of pornography. He said: *"that one thing lead[s] to another"*, and he does not know

why he committed these offences: *“I can’t tell you how much I curse myself for doing what I did. Not just now that I’m being punished. All the time. Ever since it happened. Every time it happened I cursed myself. I hated myself. I just don’t know why I carried on doing it.”*

- Matthew is a 51-year-old single, homosexual man, who worked as a technician in a large telecommunications company. He is serving a 20-year sentence for the sexual assault of male minors. Matthew was adopted and reported the most intensive abuse of all the participants interviewed during the study. He was emotionally, physically and sexually abused and had had an extremely disruptive childhood. During his high school years, he had been attracted to younger boys and after school had become involved in coaching soccer and athletics so that he could be with younger boys. Matthew reported that he had had sexual relationships with other homosexual men, but this had been purely physical and he had not felt any emotional attachment. His first viewing of pornographic material had been on the Internet after he had completed high school, and he had collected child pornography on a daily basis: *“I collected the stuff for probably the best part of a year. It became an addiction. I’d get home from work, or get home from training afterwards, and it would be straight onto the Internet to see what new has come on.”* He had previously been charged for the possession of pornographic material. However, after serving a sentence, he had returned to viewing child pornography and had started to sexually abuse young boys. He also reported that he had groomed the young boys by exposing them to adult pornographic material.
- John, a 33 year-old security officer, is serving a life sentence for the rape of a 13-year-old girl. He had never known his father and had grown up in an extended family with six siblings. John reported a challenging childhood primarily owing to limited financial means and having difficulty reading and writing. He had completed a grade 9 certificate and had had been forced to stay home to take care of his sick mother. After the death of his mother, he had completed training as a security officer and had been exposed to pornographic material through a colleague at work. He reported that he had poor self-esteem and that women made him feel

uncomfortable. His viewing of pornographic material evolved and he became addicted to pornography and sex. He was specifically fascinated by lesbian pornography and ended up hiring prostitutes and abusing alcohol. He had exposed his victim to pornographic material: *"It's like the whole world doesn't exist anymore. It's only you and her there and the porn."* He had had sexual relationships with adult females and reported that he used to play pornographic DVDs while having sex. If the women refused to have sex, he said that he had become angry and sometimes even violent.

- Markus is a 48-year-old bus driver who is serving a sentence for statutory rape, incest and exposing minors to pornographic material. Markus had sexually abused his biological daughter as well as his stepdaughter over a long period of time. He reported that he had had a highly dysfunctional childhood and early adulthood owing to a number of disturbing events. His biological mother was 15 years old when he was born. He never knew his father and was raised by his grandparents. He said that he had been sexually abused during his childhood, although he could not remember anything about the abuse. After completing grade 12, he joined the military. He had been married twice and had one child of his own and four stepchildren. Markus's first exposure to pornography was through pornographic magazines and he later started heavy consumption of explicit pornography through the Internet at work: *"It started with pictures of naked women and sexual acts, only photos in magazines, then it was movies and eventually I started browsing on the Internet for child pornography."* He said that his wife had been aware of his collection of pornographic material and that they used to experiment with a variety of sexual acts. The heavy consumption of pornographic material resulted in him viewing women as sex objects and experiencing feelings of immediate sexual satisfaction; his daughter (aged 11) and stepdaughter (aged 5) had been easily available for the fulfilment of his needs. Markus was adamant about the role pornography had played in his behaviour and experienced intense feelings of self-blame for what he had done.

- Frederick is a 52-year-old married, heterosexual male, who worked as a process controller for a large petroleum company. He has three children and is serving a life sentence for the rape of his two biological daughters over a period of four years: *“The starting point was pornography, it is addictive. The more you see, the more you want and then you reach a point that your wife cannot satisfy you anymore and you begin to search for satisfaction elsewhere ...”*. Frederick grew up in a traditional Afrikaans household; he was raised by both his mother and father and was the eldest of five children. He had not completed his grade 12 certificate. Frederick reported that he had seldom had exposure to pornography until his wife started working in an adult shop because of financial constraints, and his extensive exposure to pornography then started. During this period, she relied on his assistance with pornographic films, management of prostitutes and strip shows. He said that during this time his wife was raped and this had caused severe marital problems. He started molesting his two daughters to obtain the sexual satisfaction he had desired. Later, he also exposed his daughters to the pornographic material he occasionally brought home and expected them to do what they saw in the films. Despite attempts to stop his behaviour, he was unsuccessful. One of his daughters reported to a teacher at school what was happening at home. He describes the influence of pornographic material on his life as follows: *“That is what pornography does; it takes control of your thoughts and eventually your whole life. That is exactly what happens. Everything around you gets rotten.”*
- Ricky is a 45 year-old fitter and turner by profession. He never married and is serving a sentence for the attempted rape of his 13-year-old step-sister. Ricky grew up on a farm in Zimbabwe and has two older brothers and a younger sister. After his parents’ divorce, he moved to South Africa and completed his apprenticeship. He said that he had had several girlfriends over the years and described himself generally as a quiet person. Ricky’s first exposure to sexually explicit material occurred through pornographic magazines. He continued to occasionally buy magazines and later viewed pornographic movies and pornography on the Internet. He visited a variety of sites and reported that he had never intentionally viewed child

pornography. Ricky said that pornography had made him *“more anxious to try and get sex. It lifts you up and makes you look around.”* He had started viewing women as sex objects and said that he had recalled the pornographic images he had seen when he was alone with his stepsister and this is when the offence had taken place.

- Reinhard is a 38-year-old homosexual man serving a sentence for the indecent assault, rape and exposure of a minor to pornographic material. He reported a troublesome childhood. He grew up with his mother after his father had left him and his sister when they were very young. He said that he had suffered from various medical conditions and had undergone psychometric testing. When he was about six years old he was diagnosed with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and was admitted to a psychiatric hospital. After reconciliation with his father and his stepfamily, he experienced his father as being extremely distant and he longed for a close relationship. During his school years, he was constantly bullied and humiliated and started practising a homosexual lifestyle. Reinhard’s first exposure to pornographic material occurred in grade 9 through pornographic magazines. He also said that he had watched a lot of homosexual pornographic DVDs because he had had a lot of homosexual friends and had started using illegal substances. He completed grade 12, and after school he also worked as a part-time male prostitute to provide financially for his mother who subsequently passed away. He had held a number of jobs during which he had befriended a lady with an eight-year-old son who was one of his victims. He described his relationship with the little boy as being extremely close. He had often bathed the little boy and they had shared a bed. The child was removed from the household and placed in foster care.
- Sam is a 23-year-old heterosexual male who raped a nine-year-old girl when he was a minor in grade 9. He is serving a five-year sentence. He grew up with a strict mother in an informal settlement. His mother had limited financial means and was involved in witchcraft. He was not allowed to have a lot of social interaction with his peers. Sam said that his mother had left a pornographic DVD at home and he had become curious about sex. He had not had any prior exposure to pornography and had watched the DVD while alone at home. He described the influence of

pornography as having been extremely intense. He had immediately raped the tenant's little girl who had walked into the room while he was watching the pornographic DVD. He described his feelings as follows: *"I was completely overwhelmed. The next thing that came to mind was what I did and then I just did it without thinking!"*

- Abel is a 54-year-old painter by profession who is serving a sentence for the rape of his stepdaughter. Abel was one of eight children and reported that he had not had an easy life. Although his father was an alcoholic, his parents managed to provide for the family's basic needs. In grade 8 he became involved with the "wrong friends" and started using illegal drugs such as dagga and Mandrax. After failing grade 8 he left school. He had had numerous sexual relationships. His girlfriend became pregnant and they married. During the marriage he was unfaithful and fathered four children. His children were also involved in illegal activities and two were in prison for illegal drug trade and shoplifting. Abel said that his first exposure to pornographic material occurred during weekend parties when pornographic movies were played. He became hooked and continued to watch pornography to gain sexual satisfaction; he also downloaded pornographic material from the Internet on his cellphone. At the time he only viewed heterosexual pornography and did not watch any gay or child pornography. He felt strongly that besides the pornographic material, substance abuse had contributed to his wrong doing. During his second marriage, he started to groom his 14-year-old stepdaughter by showing her pornographic material when they were alone at home. He eventually raped her over a period of two years and at the age of 16 she became pregnant with his child.
- Luke is a 28-year-old cleaner who is currently serving a ten-year sentence for gang rape. This was not his first sexual offence and he reported a number of sexual offences he had committed involving minors. He grew up in an informal settlement with his grandmother, one brother and two sisters. Luke reported that as far back as he could remember, pornography had played a fundamental role in his life and he had consumed pornography heavily, especially with his friends: *"After watching, we used to sodomise each other."* He started reading pornographic magazines and later

watched pornographic DVDs and downloaded pornography from the Internet on his cell phone. This included a variety of pornographic material including child pornography. The continuous, extensive watching of pornography resulted in sexual arousal. Luke said that he had always groomed young children by exposing them to pornographic material. He and his co-accused eventually gang raped a 14-year-old victim, because of their uncontrollable desire to have sex. Luke reported that he is addicted to pornography and still watches pornographic material on his cell phone, which he smuggled into the correctional centre: *"I see women just as sex objects. According to me, there is nothing more. For me, to have a relationship with a woman is just to have sex."*

- Rudolph is a 48-year-old homosexual male serving a 25-year sentence for the rape and indecent assault of his brother's two children. This was not his first sexual offence. He previously served a five-year sentence for the indecent assault of a minor. Rudolph reported that he was born in Germany. His parents left him in the care of his grandfather and they had immigrated to Namibia. Rudolph said that he had been sexually molested as a child and after his grandfather's death he went to Namibia to stay with his parents. However, by that time his parents had separated, and because his father was unable to take care of him, he went to live with another family where he was exposed to Satanism and physical abuse. He ran away and was later adopted. After school, he joined the air force and married his first wife, who was 26 years older than him. They did not have any children. After his wife passed away, he married his second wife who was also his step-daughter. The relationship started while he was still been married to his first wife. Two children were born of the marriage. Rudolph reported that he had had homosexual feelings since his childhood and had married his two wives so that would he not to socially rejected. During his second marriage, his sex life had involved numerous sexual partners, including younger gay men and male children: *"It depends on how you get dressed and interact with the child, you stimulate his sexuality, you stimulate him if you are looking for something."* He had also bought sex from street children. He said that he had not liked to view pornographic material; instead he preferred to manufacture pornography through his sexual deeds and he would sometimes play a pornographic

DVD. Rudolph was unclear about when he had had his first exposure to pornographic material. Owing to his numerous gay interactions in the correctional centre, he is taking medication to lower his sex drive. Rudolph strongly feels that the programmes in the correctional centres are inadequate. He mentioned that he would like to change his behaviour and does not want to be the same when he is released.

- Hans is serving a life sentence for the rape of a minor. He is 32 years old and completed grade 9. After his mother committed suicide, his father had remarried several times and he grew up on a farm with his stepfamily. He had a biological brother and sister and said that he had never had a good relationship with his father; he was the "black sheep" of the family. Hans's first exposure to pornographic material was at boarding school. He also said that he was sexually molested by the principal of the school during this period, but had never reported it to anybody. At home his father had a collection of pornographic material which the children had access to. Hans and his brother and sister used to watch pornography and eventually started having sexual intercourse with each other. He said that at the age of 16 he was raped by an older man who had allegedly paid his father money to rape him. After leaving school, he had several part-time jobs, and while working at a farm school, he befriended a 14-year-old girl who became pregnant with his child. He said that he had always had a "sexual problem" and had found it extremely difficult to stay away from girls. He also had pornographic images going through his mind, and when his girlfriend's younger sister (aged 8) came to stay with them, he raped her. Since being incarcerated, he has had homosexual relationships with fellow inmates. He also said that there is a lot of pornography inside the correctional centre and he continuously masturbates, up to six times a day. Hans reported that he looks at women in a sexual way and that he repetitively recalls memories of his sexual encounters. He partially blames his behaviour on his intensive exposure to pornographic material.

- Herman is a 45-year-old heterosexual man who completed grade 12 and used to be a motivational speaker. He is serving a life sentence for the rape of his sister's five-year-old daughter. After his mother's death, he and his brothers and sisters grew up in the care of his grandmother. During this time, his father was incarcerated and after his release, Herman longed to be with his father and decided to go and stay with him: *"I believed in my dad and wanted to be with him. Then I went to stay with my dad and all my problems started."* Herman reported how he was brutally abused by his father during his childhood. After school, he met his first wife who was tragically killed in a motorcar accident. Eight years later he married his second wife and fathered four daughters. Herman's first exposure to pornographic material occurred when he was at school, and he became hooked. He said that he had learnt a lot about sex from pornography, he had been sexually stimulated by pornographic material and had experimented a lot with sex. He had especially enjoyed lesbian pornography and had had *"boxes full"* of pornographic material. He had gradually exposed his wife to pornographic material and had groomed her to watch it with him. He said that he was addicted to pornography and sees women only as sex objects and prostitutes: *"That pornographic magazines and movies that I watched, I got satisfaction from that and had to watch it when I got home. I went to my bedroom, closed the door and watched a DVD."* Herman also reported that some of his friends had been involved in the production of child pornography; however, he was greatly disturbed by this and did not want to have anything to do with it. He described himself as an aggressive individual and also said that he has a severe sexual problem. He partially blames his addiction to pornography for the rape of his sister's child, and reported that he had increasingly seen the little girl as a grown-up woman: *"Pornography made me sick, I think the pornography played with my thoughts and my heart."*
- Martin is a 55-year-old married, heterosexual male who was working as a packer at the fresh produce market. He is serving a sentence for sexual assault. He grew up in challenging circumstances owing to limited financial means and substance abuse. He said that he had been physically abused during his childhood and that he had not

completed his formal schooling. After being employed at the fresh produce market, he and his wife moved in with another family who had two small girls. Martin said that they lived in a confined space and the children used to come and play in their small room. His first exposure to pornographic material was through a colleague at work who exposed him to pornography on his cell phone. He became hooked and regularly watched pornographic material and had conversations about sex with his colleagues. He reported that he started to experiment sexually with his wife, and before the offence took place had watched pornography. He shared the opinion that the pornographic material had had an influence on his thoughts and believes that he would not have committed the offence if he had not been exposed to pornographic material.

- Angie is serving a sentence for rape. She is 29 years old, completed grade 10 and was employed as a security officer. Angie said that she was the oldest of five children and grew up in an informal settlement. She had two daughters, aged 11 and five, when she met her boyfriend who extensively consumed explicit pornographic material, including child pornography. Angie reported that he always bought pornographic DVDs and sometimes they had watched the DVDs together and experimented sexually. He had also had pornography on his cell phone and abused alcohol. She said that her boyfriend had started raping her five-year-old daughter, and because he had been supporting the household financially, she had not reported him to the police. A neighbour eventually reported the abuse to the police and she and her boyfriend were arrested. Angie said that she still has the pornographic images in her mind and cannot forget what she saw. She feels strongly that pornography makes you believe irresponsible sexual practices are acceptable.

Results of IPA analysis

The themes identified in this chapter relate to the main aim of the research study, and were identified through IPA. Although each participant and his or her narrative account were unique, there were similarities and consequently superordinate and subordinate themes were identified. Five additional themes were identified including, substance abuse, economic circumstances, religion, regulation of pornographic material and the criminal justice system. Although all the participants did not report these themes, they appear to be important for consideration in the study. The main superordinate and subordinate themes are indicated in table 5.1, and will be discussed in the order in which the interviews were conducted.

Table 5.1: Extracted Themes

Superordinate themes	Subordinate themes	Quotations	Indicators (transcript & page no.)
Sense of self	Low self-esteem	<p>“I’ve always had a lot of self-doubt, I’ve always had a very low opinion of myself.” (T4, p. 9)</p> <p>“I don’t have any self-confidence, it is almost as if you are acting.” (T1, p. 3)</p> <p>“I was always the black sheep of the family.” (T11, p. 2)</p>	T4, p. 9; T1, pp. 3 & 6; T11, pp. 2 & 12; T17, p. 3
	Withdrawn	<p>“I like to be by myself.” (T2, p. 3)</p> <p>“I started to withdraw from other people. Like I</p>	T10, p. 2; T2, p. 3; T1, pp. 2 & 5; T15, p. 4

		<p>said, I never grew-up.” (T1, p. 2)</p> <p>“That is why I am by myself, I am afraid to talk to people. I cannot socialize with others.” (T10, p. 2)</p>	
	Aggression	<p>“I was a violent person.” (T6, p. 15)</p> <p>“I could not handle it and assaulted him.” (T10, p. 5)</p>	<p>T6, pp. 11 & 15;</p> <p>T11, p. 4; T10, p. 5</p>
	Childlike	<p>“I am very naïve and actually I was a child until recently.” (T1, p. 2)</p> <p>“You remain in the teenage phase.” (T2, p. 8)</p>	<p>T3, p. 4; T2, pp. 7 & 8; T1, pp. 2 & 7</p>
Significant relationships	Parents	<p>“I don’t know my dad. I grew up without a father figure.” (T9, p. 4)</p> <p>“I wanted to be with him. I believed in my father, I wanted to be with my dad. Then I went to stay with him and all my problems started.”(T10, p. 1)</p> <p>“My mother and father are divorced.” (T7, p. 1)</p> <p>“It was a very violent family where I come from, my mother and father almost permanently were</p>	<p>T6, p. 23; T5, pp. 1, 2 & 3 ; T4, pp. 1 & 15; T3, p. 3; T9, pp. 4 & 8; T7, p. 1; T5, pp. 1 & 2; T1, pp. 1 & 3; T11, pp. 2 & 3; T10, p. 1; T13, p. 1; T16, p. 6; T17, pp. 3 & 7</p>

		fighting.” (T1, p. 1)	
	Peer group	<p>“My mother was very strict, she did not allow me to go out and socialise with other kids.” (T12, p. 3)</p> <p>“No activities, I was not allowed to have any friends at home. He raised me like a slave, like a slave.” (T10, p. 3)</p> <p>“She kept us locked up in the house. She denied us having friends and I always blamed my mother for that.” (T17, p. 8)</p> <p>“I didn’t connect with any friends as such.” (T5, p. 2)</p>	<p>T7, p. 2; T2, p. 3; T1, p. 2; T12, p. 3; T10, p. 3; T5, pp. 2 & 3; T17, p. 8</p>
	Intimate adult relationships	<p>“I was verbally, mentally and sexually abused.” (T3, p. 6)</p> <p>“She started jollyng and I started jollyng this side and things did not work out.” (T11, p. 4)</p> <p>“I got married and it was traumatic.” (T1, p. 6)</p>	<p>T3, pp. 4 & 6; T9, p. 7; T4, p. 12; T8, p. 5; T11, pp. 4 & 5; T1, p. 6; T16, p. 1</p>

Abuse during childhood	Physical/emotional abuse	<p>“My step-dad beat me a lot, he threw me on the ground and hit me.” (T16, p. 6)</p> <p>“I was abused, my father chained me around my legs.” (T10, p. 2)</p> <p>“And then it was just abuse all the way, slapping and hitting and swearing, the whole works.” (T5, p. 4)</p>	T14, p. 2; T16, pp. 5 & 6; T10, p. 2; T5, pp. 4 & 5
	Sexual abuse	<p>“I was molested as a child and raped as an adult.” (T3, p. 2)</p> <p>“When I was in boarding school, I was raped by the school principal.” (T11, p. 8)</p> <p>“Another man molested me since I was 8 years old.” (T14, p. 1)</p>	T3, p. 2; T9, p. 5; T5, p. 2; T4, p. 6; T1, p. 5; T11, p. 8; T14, p. 1; T17, p. 7; T18, p. 4
Viewing pornography	Initial exposure	<p>“You know Scope, you are curious, you want to know what boys and girls look like.” (T1, p. 16)</p> <p>“I worked at the market and some of the guys had these things on their cell phones. Out of curiosity I went to where they were</p>	T1, p. 16; T16, p. 4; T12; T11, p. 8; T3, p. 12; T1, p. 2

		<p>standing and viewing these things on their cell phones, that is how I saw these things.” (T16, p. 4)</p> <p>“My father had a lot of porn tapes and magazines.” (T11, p. 8)</p>	
	<p>Progression</p>	<p>“It started with photos of naked women and eventually of people having sex. I started to view movies and eventually I browsed the Internet for child-porn.” (T9, p. 9)</p> <p>“But the more you look at it, the more mundane it becomes. And you get to a point where this is now, I’m used to this and then you’re looking for the next level again. And then that was the progression. And anyone who tells me there’s not going to be progression is talking bull, because in the beginning it was a stimulant on its own, but as you got used to it and believe me I saw some</p>	<p>T9, pp. 9 & 22; T5, pp. 8, 9 & 16; T6, p. 11</p>

		hardcore stuff.” (T5, p. 16) “I started to have sex with people I bought.” (T6, p. 11)	
	Types of pornographic material	“Specific types, men and women were to[o] original.” (T6, p. 5) “I fantasized about lesbian pornography.” (T10, p. 26) “I was collecting child porn on a daily basis.” (T5, p. 7)	T6, pp. 5 & 6; T10, p. 26; T5, pp. 6 & 7; T13, p. 3; T16, p. 6; T14, p. 9; T17, p. 8
	Collection of pornographic material	“I collected a lot of porn.” (T9, p. 9) “From school I collected pornographic magazines.” (T10, p. 16) “I had a hard disc full of the rubbish at one stage.” (T5, p. 8)	T5, p. 8; T3, p. 10; T9, p. 9; T10, p. 16; T4, p. 7; T3, p. 10
Influence of pornography on feelings, thoughts and behaviour	Sexual arousal	“The more you watch porn, the more you want sex.” (T6, p. 13) “To be honest with you, I can masturbate five or six times a day, that is the impact it has on me.” (T11, p. 11) “A lot of sexual	T6, pp. 5 & 13; T7, p. 3; T5, p. 8; T3, p. 5; T2, pp. 7, 5 & 11; T8, p. 8; T1, p. 13; T11, p. 11; T12, p. 3; T13, pp. 3 & 5

		stimulation. I'll be totally blunt. You'd sit there and you'd get an erection while you're looking at the stuff." (T5, p. 8)	
	Sexual thoughts and feelings	<p>"It affects your brain and your worthiness. It changes you in a monster." (T9, p. 17)</p> <p>"But if you fantasize, sometimes it becomes true because you push that thought out." (T1, p. 13)</p> <p>"It corrupts your mind. It gives you a different understanding of the opposite sex. You see the opposite sex as a sex object." (T15, p. 6)</p>	T9, pp. 4, 17 & 18; T8, p. 11; T6, p. 17; T7, p. 6; T1, p. 13; T11, pp. 5, 6 & 10; T5, p. 8; T13, p. 6; T16, p. 5; T18, pp. 5 & 6; T11, p. 10; T10, p. 19; T9, p. 13; T7, p. 5; T13, p. 6; T15, p. 6
	Sexual experimentation	<p>"There were times that I experimented with what I have seen." (T9, p. 16)</p> <p>"My sister and I watched it many times, we even started having sex. Also my brother." (T11, p. 8)</p> <p>"I've learned what sex was about and I started at a very young age to experiment with girls."</p>	T9, pp. 16 & 11; T7, p. 5; T4, p. 8; T3, p. 5; T8, p. 8; T11, p. 8; T10, p. 16; T13, p. 4; T16, p. 7; T15, p. 11; T18, p. 3

		(T10, p. 16) “You want to experiment with your wife and your wife does not want to do such things and then you go outside your marriage, to experience what you have seen.” (T15, p. 11)	
	Sexual satisfaction	“I got a lot of satisfaction from the books and movies I’ve watched.” (T10, p. 19) “So my need for satisfaction went beyond the point of my wife.” (T8, p. 2) “You are an adult with sexual and social needs, but they don’t get satisfied. Suddenly here is a new group and you feel at home.” (T2, p. 8)	T7, p. 7; T8, p. 2; T9, p. 12; T10, p. 19; T2, p. 8; T1, p. 13
	Addiction to pornography	“The starting point was porn, it is addictive. The more you view, the more you want.” (T8, p. 2) “If you are in that hole, you cannot get out. It is a big problem, I know, I’ve been there, done that, worn the T-shirt.” (T9, p.	T6, p. 5; T7, p. 3; T5, p. 10; T3, p. 5; T2, pp. 7, 5 & 11; T8, pp. 2 & 8; T2, pp. 14 & 17; T1, pp. 2, 13 & 15; T9, pp. 2, 11 & 17; T13, pp. 5 & 6; T16, p. 8;

		2) “It becomes like your shot of heroin. If you don’t have your little something to look at, it is the same as alcohol addiction.” (T1, p. 15)	T18, p. 3
Consequences of exposure to pornography	Criminal behaviour	“Pornography taught me a skill to convince other people without feeling guilty. It is dangerous, very dangerous.” (T9, p. 12) “You know if it was not for pornography, it would have been very difficult to seduce boys.” (T2, p. 13) “Ja, I do feel if I had not watched pornography, I would not have done it, committed that offence. I really believe it.” (T12, p. 4) 4) “The porn was a definite contributing factor.” (T5, p. 14)	T8, p. 3; T9, p. 12; T6, p. 8; T2, pp. 6 & 13; T5, pp. 9, 10 & 14; T12, p. 4; T13, p. 4; T16, p. 9; T15, p. 6

	Family life and future	<p>“It is my wish, one day when I am released to tell people what I did. It hurts, it destroyed my life. It cost me a marriage; I sincerely love my wife and daughter. I lost them due to it.” (T9, p. 10)</p> <p>“It can affect your relationship with your wife or girlfriend.” (T15, p. 10)</p> <p>“My whole future is destroyed because of that.”(T17, p. 11)</p> <p>“It turns you into a monster.” (T8, p. 8)</p>	T9, pp. 10, 19 & 22; T8, p. 8; T5, p. 12; T16, p. 9; T15, p. 10; T17, p. 11
Feelings of remorse	Self-blame	<p>“I was very angry for myself and what I did.” (T9, p. 11)</p> <p>“I was totally disgusted with what I’ve done.” (T7, p. 4)</p> <p>“I can’t tell you how much I curse myself for doing what I did.” (T4, p. 14)</p> <p>“I’m really, really remorseful about what I did.” (T12, p. 5)</p>	T8, p. 4; T9, pp. 11, 14, 13 & 16; T6, p. 19; T7, p. 4; T5, p. 20; T4, p. 14; T11, p. 7; T12, p. 5; T10, p. 1; T15, pp. 8 & 11; T16, pp. 3 & 8; T17, p. 11

<p>Rehabilitation and support</p>	<p>Lack of adequate treatment</p>	<p>“I did not learn anything from the psychologist. I learned more from the social worker.” (T10, p. 5)</p> <p>“I fought against it. I really fought. At times I ignored it, but it sticks inside you.” (T9, p. 13)</p> <p>“I am afraid I will do the same thing if I look at it again.” (T8, p. 4)</p>	<p>T5, p. 9, 11 & 17; T4, p. 9; T1, pp. 2, 4 & 14; T9, pp. 13 & 18; T11, p. 13; T10, p. 5; T8, p. 4; T14, p. 9; T17, p. 11</p>
	<p>Family support</p>	<p>“I am glad they accepted me and I have people who care, that want to give me a change, that want to support me.” (T10, p. 10)</p> <p>“Both my daughters forgave me, we can talk to each other again.” (T8, p. 12)</p> <p>“We made peace. They forgave me, I begged their forgiveness and I thank the lord that they forgave me.” (T9, p. 15)</p>	<p>T10, pp. 8 & 10; T8, p. 12; T9, p. 15; T15, p. 3</p>

In order to place the research findings in context, it was deemed necessary to gain an in-depth understanding of how the participants perceived themselves and to describe the most significant relationships they had had in their lives. Both a sense of self and significant relationships were identified as superordinate themes.

Sense of self

Spending time with the participants and listening intensively to their narratives, it became clear that most of them had low self-esteem and lacked self-confidence. Louis referred to himself as follows:

"I've always had a lot of self-doubt, I've always had a very low opinion of myself." (T4, p. 9)

Most participants felt that they had not been accepted by others and described themselves as being the "black sheep of the family" or the "punching bag" at school. The narratives also showed that in line with a low self-esteem, many participants had been socially withdrawn and had easily become aggressive towards others. Throughout their lives this had impacted on their personal and professional relationships and even posed challenges for them in the correctional centre where they were currently detained. Herman described his feelings of aggression as follows:

"I am a very aggressive person and could not handle it and assaulted him." (T10, p. 5)

It was interesting to note how the participants described themselves and how many mentioned that they are childlike and never completely reached the adult developmental stage, as revealed in the following quotations:

"You remain in the teenage phase." (T2, p. 8)

"I am very naïve and actually was a child until recently." (T1, p. 2)

They further elaborated and said that because they were childlike, they were more comfortable among children and felt that they were admired by children and recognised as part of the group. Through their descriptions, it became clear that in many instances children had given them the attention and reassurance they wanted.

Significant relationships

The participants provided extensive information about the most significant relationships they had had in their lives. They discussed relationships with their parents, peer group and later intimate relationships with adult partners. During the in-depth interviews, the participants briefly referred to their siblings. This information was therefore not included in the superordinate theme.

Parents

Most of the participants had lived with one of their biological parents, generally their mothers, while others had been taken care of by extended family members such as grandparents or adopted parents. Almost all participants grew up in dysfunctional family environments characterised by aggression, separation, divorce and abuse, as clearly revealed by the following quotations:

“ It was a very violent family were I come from my mother and father almost permanently [were] fighting.” (T1, p. 1)

“ So they got divorced, for whatever reasons, her depression or whatever it was, I stayed with the old man.” (T5, p. 3)

During the analysis of the superordinate theme, it became clear that the identified dysfunctional family environment had a direct influence on the participants’ developmental experience and highlighted the significant role of parents and the family environment in a child’s life.

As children, the participants had wanted attention and unconditional acceptance from their parents, which they did not receive because of the dysfunctional nature of the family environment. Instead they experienced rejection, maltreatment and attachment difficulties. This is evident from the following quotations of Steve and Hans:

“ I think that is the big thing in my life, I did not receive any love. No love, no acceptance.”
(T1, p. 5)

“ I did not get a lot of attention from my family, I was always pushed aside.” (T11, p. 12)

Most of the participants revealed that they had grown up with an absent father figure and expressed a sincere desire to have had a more intimate relationship with their fathers. In instances where participants had had relationships with their fathers during childhood, the relationships had not been close and were characterised by emotional neglect and unkindness, as described by Reinhard:

“I think he did psychological damage to me. The fact that I wanted to tell him about the bullying at school and how people treated me and he never listened to me.” (T17, p. 8)

Peer group

It was interesting to note that the participants had had extremely poor social relationships with their peers since early childhood. This can be ascribed to their low self-esteem and dysfunctional family environment. Most participants had been restricted from any social interaction by their parents or caregivers that could be ascribed to individual limitations of the parents, inadequate parenting skills and the abusive situation at home, as shown in the following quotes:

“You’re not allowed to have friends come to you, you’re not allowed to take part in school sports, you’re not allowed to do this, you’re not allowed anything.” (T5, p. 3)

"My mother was very strict, she did not allow me to go out and socialise with other kids."
(T12, p. 3)

Owing to their restricted social interaction, which forms the basis of social relations, most participants had been withdrawn and had found it extremely difficult to develop and maintain healthy social relationships, especially with members of the opposite sex. John describes his feelings towards women as follows:

"Women, the truth is women scare me." (T6, p. 3.

Intimate adult relationships

All the participants indicated that they had had intimate relationships with adult partners, some of whom were married. However, similar to their childhood experiences of adult relationships, only two out of 18 participants had managed to establish stable intimate relationships, and many of these relationships had been dysfunctional and even disturbing, as stated by Steve:

"I got married and it was traumatic!" (T1, p. 6)

The narratives showed that most of these intimate relationships with adult partners had been characterised by instability, lack of commitment, adultery and maltreatment, as revealed in the following two quotations:

"I sometimes slapped her, but never seriously assaulted her." (T11, p. 5)

"After the birth of our baby I found out that he was sleeping around." (T3, p. 4)

Some participants elaborated on their sexual activity and disclosed that they had been sexually active from a young age. Both the female participants had become pregnant during their teenage years, around the age of 16. Some participants also revealed that they had experienced sexual problems such as being overly sexually active. Because they had been

viewing pornography on a regular basis, they had persuaded their sexual partners to view pornography with them, as described by Herman:

“I would say that I actually taught her the wrong stuff, because she was my wife. I exposed her, slowly, systematically, I tested her by asking what she will do if she finds the stuff in the house, how she will feel about pornography and all those things.”
(T10, p. 18)

The participants further elaborated on the influence of pornography on their sexual relationships with their partners and revealed, in some instances, that viewing pornography had resulted in greater sexual satisfaction and pleasure. However, in most instances, it had generated unrealistic sexual expectations and put strain on the relationship, with damaging consequences.

During further analysis of the superordinate theme, it became clear that some participants had been sexually attracted to children of the same sex from a young age. Because of their dysfunctional family environment and society’s views on homosexuality, they had not felt comfortable about disclosing any of their feelings and had attempted to deal with it themselves. This is reflected in the following two quotations:

“And there already the attraction was, younger boys. I was only in matric then, but it was still younger boys.” (T5, p. 5)

“The big thing is, from when I was little; I felt I was gay, but if you said you were gay, they will reject you.” (T14, p. 2)

Abuse during childhood

It was noteworthy that most of the participants had experienced abuse during their childhood. The narratives disclosed extensive abuse, including forms of physical, emotional and sexual abuse as shown in the following quotations:

“I was abused; my father chained me around my legs.” (T10, p. 2)

“She was always hitting me, always telling me what trash I was and I was adopted because no one wanted me. You know, mental abuse, physical abuse, everything ... social abuse.” (T5, p. 4)

“When I was in boarding school, I was raped by the school principal.” (T11, p. 8)

The abuse experienced during childhood had been distressing because one participant disclosed that he had been so traumatised that he could only remember certain things about the abuse. During the in-depth interviews, the discomfort of the participants recalling the events was also observed through nonverbal cues such as restlessness or fiddling with their hands.

During further analysis of the theme, it became clear that sexual abuse had prevailed. Most participants had been sexually abused by close family members, friends of the family, neighbours or individuals in authority positions. Generally, the abusers had been people whom the participants had trusted and had wanted to be with, which had contributed to the intense affect of the abuse experienced by the participants. It was noteworthy and disturbing that some participants had attempted to report the incidents of abuse to significant others, such as teachers or trusted family members. However, no appropriate action had been taken, which resulted in the abuse continuing or even worsening over time. Other participants had not reported the abuse because it had fulfilled their need for attention, as described by Matthew:

“Hey he was paying attention to me, so I didn’t kick against it.” (T5, p. 2)

Matthew, who was one of the participants who reported extensive abuse during childhood, specifically elaborated on the influence of the sexual abuse he had experienced during his childhood and how it had impacted on his emotions and behaviour during adulthood:

“When I look at it now, I think what I went through as a kid; I was now doing exactly the same to them.” (T5, p. 13)

Child sexual abuse as described by the participants in this study clearly had both immediate and long-term adverse influences.

Viewing pornography

Initial exposure

During the in-depth interviews the participants reported that they had been initially exposed to sexually explicit material through different ways including their peer group, parents, the Internet or sexual partners. Most participants indicated that they had initially been exposed to pornographic material during their adolescent years through fellow learners at school who had obtained pornographic magazines. These participants reported that they had been motivated by their curiosity about sex and the adult physical appearance of males and females. Steve described this as follows:

“You know Scope, you are curious, you want to know what boys and girls look like.” (T1, p. 16)

It was noteworthy that in some instances the participants had directly implicated their parents in their initial exposure to pornographic material. This was mainly as a result of parents who were viewing pornographic material and who did not keep it away from the children in the household, as indicated in the following two quotations:

“My mother had left a porn DVD. I’d long to watch this DVD one day so on the particular day I decided to grab and watch it because I was alone at home.” (T12, p. 1)

“My father had a lot of porn tapes and magazines.” (T11, p. 8)



Some of the participants indicated that they had initially been exposed to pornography on the Internet, especially on their cell phones, while others also revealed that they had been exposed to pornographic material at the workplace on their computer or cell phone, as revealed in a quotation by Martin:

“I worked at the market and some of the guys had these things on their cell phones. Out of curiosity I went to where they were standing and viewed these things on their cell phones, that is how I saw these things.” (T16, p. 4)

In this study it was found that the two female participants had mainly been exposed to sexually explicit material later in life through their sexual partners. They did not express the same awareness and involvement with pornography as the male participants and pointed out that their viewing of pornography had mainly been motivated by the desire to keep their sexual partners happy.

The first exposure to pornographic material can result in diverse emotions and reactions. Some participants stated that they had been excited, while one participant specifically revealed that he had actually been disappointed after seeing pornography. It was noteworthy that the youngest participant, who was still a minor when he was exposed to pornographic material and committed the sexual offence, reported that he had been totally overwhelmed when he had first seen pornographic material. Sam described his experience as follows:

“I was completely overwhelmed because it was the first time I saw a movie like that and then I was completely overwhelmed.” (T12, p. 3)

Especially children and adolescents may be shocked or disturbed by premature or inadvertent encounters with pornographic material. They may be at an age or developmental level where they are unaware of, inexperienced or uninterested in sexual activities.

Progression

All the participants disclosed that after their first exposure to pornographic material, they had become hooked on pornography and had continued viewing pornographic material. Some reported that they had viewed pornographic material on a daily basis, while others revealed that it had been less often. In addition to continuing to view pornography, they had experienced the need to view a variety of pornographic material, and it is clear that progression occurred in their viewing behaviour. The narratives show that all participants started to view typical heterosexual pornography, but this became ordinary and they then started searching for different kinds of pornography, as revealed in the following quotations:

“It started with photos of naked women and eventually of people having sex. I started to view movies and eventually I browsed the Internet for child porn.” (T9, p. 9)

“But the more you look at it, the more mundane it becomes. And you get to a point where this is now, I’m used to this and then you’re looking for the next level again. And then that was the progression. And anyone who tells me there’s not going to be progression is talking bull, because in the beginning it was a stimulant on its own, but as you got used to it and believe me I saw some hardcore stuff.” (T5, p. 16)

Types of pornographic material

It was interesting to note that all the participants initially viewed heterosexual pornography and later developed a preference for a specific type of pornographic material. It was notable that lesbian pornography was often mentioned as being the preferred type of pornographic material to view. Further exploration revealed that the participants had found this type of pornographic material to be extremely arousing. Although they mentioned that they had viewed homosexual pornography, most stated that they had found it repulsive.

It was noteworthy that only a few participants admitted that they had viewed child pornography. This may be ascribed to the fact that child pornography is illegally obtained, and some participants may have been concerned about the implications of admitting that they had viewed illegal pornographic material. One participant mentioned that he had even been disturbed by the severity of the child pornography he had viewed, as described in the following quotation:

"I saw things where they were having intercourse with babies. With little babies, under one or under two years. For me even that was sick. You could see whatever you wanted to see."
(T5, p. 8)

Two participants mentioned that they had been exposed to the production of child pornography. They did not openly confirm or imply their direct involvement, but described in detail episodes relating to the production of child pornography and the influence it had had on them and their partners.

Collection of pornographic material

The narratives show that possibly because of the participants' consistent viewing behaviour, many had collected pornography and had built up collections. Some participants revealed that they had had special rooms inside or outside of the house where they had kept their collections of pornographic material, including pornographic magazines and DVDs, as indicated in the following quotation by Louis:

"My little tool room, it was always under lock and key, but there I had all my Hustler pinups. You know the typical, the pinups and this and that." (T4, p. 7)

Some participants collected online pornography and kept it on separate hard drives. They were also well aware of forensic investigations done on computers to locate pornographic material and had thus found alternative ways to hide material from law enforcement officials, as stated by Matthew:

"I had a hard disc full of the rubbish at one stage." (T5, p. 8)

Influence of pornography on feelings, thoughts and behaviour

The study identified important risk factors relating to personality, family environment and abuse during childhood that may predispose individuals to the potentially harmful influence of pornographic material, as identified in this study. The participants provided a substantial amount of information on the extensive self-perceived influences of pornographic material on their thoughts, feelings and behaviour, which are discussed in the following section.

Sexual arousal

All the participants mentioned that the most noticeable influence of viewing pornographic material is immediate sexual arousal, as emphasised in the following two quotations:

"A lot of sexual stimulation. I'll be totally blunt. You'd sit there and you'd get an erection while you're looking at the stuff." (T5, p. 8)

"That thing triggers you sexually that you want sex." (T8, p. 8)

The physical reaction to pornography as disclosed by the participants is not surprising when taking into account that the main intention of pornographic material is to arouse a person sexually. However, many of the participants emphasised that because they had been exposed to pornography, they had found it extremely difficult to control their sexual arousal and they had experienced an uncontrollable desire to obtain immediate sexual satisfaction. They had started to feel the desire to not only view pornographic material, but also to practise what they had seen, as described by Luke:

"We use[d] to watch pornography a lot at my home. After watching we [would] sodomise each other." (T13, p. 4)

Sexual thoughts and feelings

Despite the immediate physical effect in the form of sexual arousal, as described above, many participants revealed the cognitive effect of pornography by referring to continuous sexual thoughts and recurrent images. They were adamant about the strong cognitive effect of pornography, as reflected in the following quotation by Markus:

“It affects your brain and your worthiness; it changes you in a monster.” (T9, p. 17)

The participants stated that they had been unable to remove the sexual images from their mind and had continued recalling the. The continuous recalling of images and sexual thoughts led to the creation of sexual fantasies and masturbation, as indicated by the following quotations by Steve and Hans:

“Pornography is another world, it’s a fantasy world. There you are king, you are in control.” (T1, p. 3.

“Then I will go back, maybe I will lie on my bed and the memories will come back.” (T11, p. 10)

The narratives clearly show that exposure to pornographic material affected the participants’ perception of sex and particularly their views on women. Many participants indicated that as a result of their continuous exposure to pornographic material and the way women are portrayed in this material, they had viewed women as sex objects, as described by Luke:

“I see a woman just as a sex object. According to me there is nothing more. For me, to have a relationship with a woman is just to have sex.” (T13, p. 6)

Although it was apparent that viewing pornographic material had affected the participants' views of women and sex, it was notable that they did not approve of violent sexual behaviour or rape. All the participants felt strongly that this was unacceptable behaviour and disapproved the display thereof in pornography. One participant stated that he had become more physically aggressive towards his sexual partner when trying to obtain sexual satisfaction. He mentioned that his need for sexual satisfaction after viewing pornographic material had instigated domestic violence if his partner refused sexual intercourse.

Sexual experimentation

Further exploration of the superordinate theme clearly revealed the behavioural influence of pornographic material on the participants. All the participants disclosed that their exposure to pornographic material had encouraged them to experiment with the sexual activities illustrated in the pornographic material they had viewed, as described by Matthew:

"It also got to the stage where you'd see the stuff and you think you know, wouldn't it be nice to do something like this or wouldn't it be nice to do something like that." (T5, p. 8)

In some instances, participants revealed that they had used pornography as a tool for sex education and had learnt more about sex from pornography and wanted to experiment with their partners. However, it was clear from the narratives that sexual experimentation with partners caused strain in the relationship since not all partners were willing to perform certain sexual acts and this resulted in some participants exploring sexual behaviour outside the relationship, as indicated in the following quotations by Hannah and Abel:

"That is where he got the idea to force himself on me and rape me from behind." (T3, p. 11)

"You want to experiment with your wife and your wife does not want to do such things and then you go outside your marriage, to experience what you have seen." (T15, p. 11)

Sexual satisfaction

As a result of the intense sexual arousal, continuous sexual thoughts and associated sexual behaviour, most participants disclosed an increased level of sexual satisfaction. Some participants revealed that they had also had greater expectations about sex that had been based on the unrealistic nature of pornography, as described by Ricky:

“Because you’re expecting more now than what you actually get.” (T7, p. 7)

In cases where participants had sexual partners, the desire for sexual satisfaction increased to such an extent that it moved beyond their sexual partners to others such as prostitutes, vulnerable individuals in the household or the immediate environment such as children, as revealed in the following quotations by Frederick, Jacob and Matthew:

“So my need for satisfaction went beyond the point of my wife.” (T8, p. 12)

“But I will tell you, selfish, a person will see it and become sexually aroused and you will want sexual satisfaction now!” (T2, p. 11)

“Ja, except for after a period of time that what gave you a kick in the beginning, doesn’t give you a kick anymore. And then you take it to the next level. So I would say that porn on the Internet definitely had an influence on me starting to molest the youngsters as well.” (T5, p. 9)

The research study revealed that those participants who had viewed pornographic material and displayed characteristics of paedophilia and who had not been involved in sexual relationships with other adults, created situations to be close to children and lured children whom they befriended into performing sexual acts to obtain sexual satisfaction.

Addiction to pornography

When exploring the influence of pornography on human behaviour, the most noticeable subordinate theme was the participants' dependency on pornographic material. Almost all of them shared the opinion that pornography is addictive and that they had had to view it frequently. During the in-depth interviews, it came to light that pornography on the Internet especially was highly addictive mainly because of its ease of access and that it interfered with the participants' ability to perform ordinary life tasks. Steve described this as follows:

"It becomes like your shot of heroin. If you don't have your little something to look at, it is the same as alcohol addiction." (T1, p. 15)

Because of their dependency on pornographic material, participants disclosed that they had had access to pornography at home and at work and had needed to view increasingly more pornography in order to experience the same effect. This is evident from the following two quotations:

"The starting point was porn, it is addictive. The more you view, the more you want." (T8, p. 2)

"It's like the whole world doesn't exist anymore. It's only you and her and the porn." (T6, p. 9)

It was interesting to note that participants disclosed that they had initially not realised that they had been addicted to pornographic material and as soon as they had recognised that they had a problem, it was extremely difficult to find help and change their behavior. As explained by Markus:

"If you are in that hole, you cannot get out. It is a big problem, I know, I've been there, done that, worn the T-shirt." (T9, p. 2)

Some participants revealed that their addiction to pornographic material was so severe that besides being incarcerated and attending sex offender programmes in the correctional centre, they were still addicted to pornographic material, as revealed by Luke:

“Yes, I was addicted to pornography I’m still addicted to it.” (T13, p. 5)

The identified influences of pornographic material on human behaviour as presented in this chapter are illustrated in figure 5.1 below. The illustration suggests that viewing pornographic material has numerous influences on an individual that considerably increase the level of sexual satisfaction and dependency on pornography. Often this uncontrollable need for sexual satisfaction and addiction results in destructive behaviour with severe criminal and personal consequences.

The identified influences can be illustrated as follows:

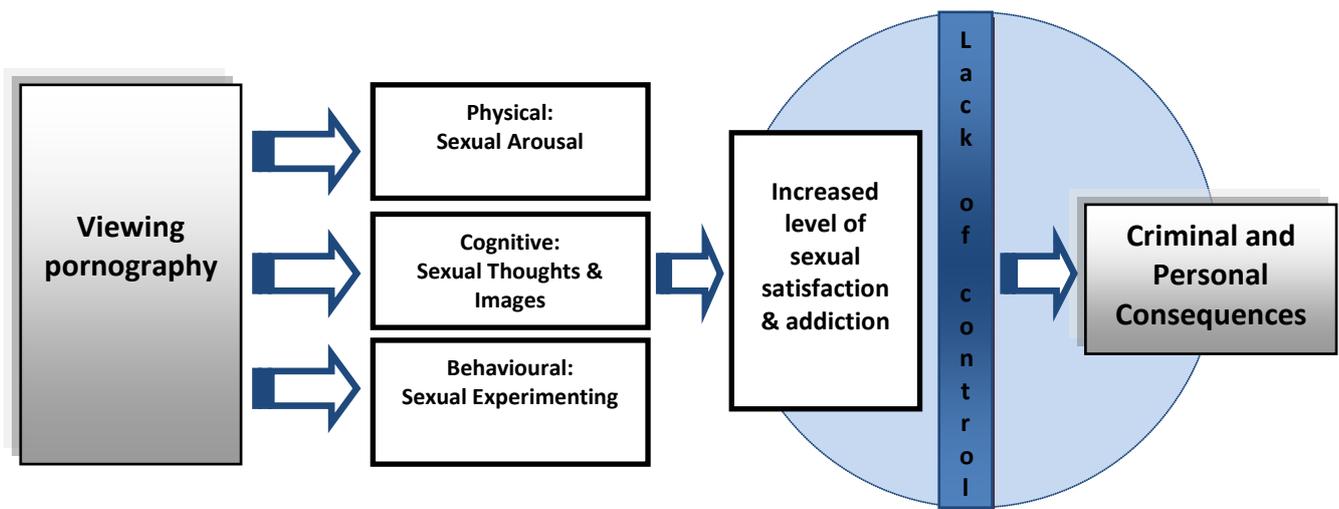


Figure 5.1: Identified influences of pornographic material on human behaviour

Based on the research findings discussed in the previous sections, it is clear that at an individual level, not everyone is affected by viewing pornographic material in the same way since the influences of viewing pornographic material are mediated by both internal and external factors.

Consequences of exposure to pornography

When analysing the narratives of the participants, it became clear that the overall impact of pornography on their lives was extensive. Many participants became emotional during the interview when they attempted to describe the impact that pornographic material had had on their personal lives.

Criminal behaviour

All the participants felt strongly that viewing pornographic material had played a critical role in their criminal conduct and the offence they had committed. It was interesting that almost all the participants shared the opinion that pornographic material had mainly acted as a causal driver or instigator of their criminal behaviour, as explained by Sam:

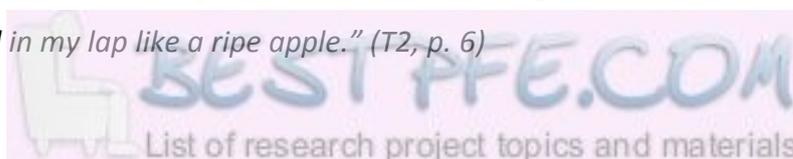
“Ja, I do feel if I had not watched it, I would not have done it, committed that offence. I really believe it.” (T12, p. 4)

Further analysis of the narratives showed that almost all the participants had also used pornographic material as part of a strategy to manipulate or groom their victims. They had become narcissistic in their actions and had committed a self-centered crime because of their need for immediate gratification and increased level of sexual satisfaction. This is clearly described in the following quotations:

“In the beginning it was just molestation, actually more self-satisfaction for me. They just had to satisfy me.” (T8, p. 8)

“Pornography taught me a skill to convince other people without feeling guilty. It is dangerous, very dangerous.” (T9, p. 12)

“It is your goal to seduce a young boy, you use everything that is available to you and pornography landed in my lap like a ripe apple.” (T2, p. 6)



Victim characteristics

The participants provided extensive information on their victims who had been children mostly between the ages of six and 12 of either gender. Most of them reported that they had had more than one victim; some were their own biological children, while others had been stepchildren, friends of the family's children or children they had met through their profession. In most instances, they reported that they had had close relationships and regular contact with these children, as explained by Reinhard:

"We had a very close relationship me and the little boy. It was more like an older brother, but also father figure." (T17, p. 10)

Owing to the close nature of their relationship, they had often satisfied the emotional and physical needs of the child.

Participants, who revealed their sexual interest in younger children of the same sex, specifically disclosed that they had been drawn to children who had displayed specific features such as being in a certain age group (8–10 years) or physical features such as body structure or hair colour as shown in the following two quotations:

"Teenage boys have the same influence, no hair on their body, soft, slightly smaller." (T14, p. 7)

"I don't like red haired boys ..." (T2, p. 9)

Further analysis of the narratives indicated that in many instances the victims had found themselves in vulnerable situations that had made them more susceptible to possible sexual abuse. These included the following:

- problems in the household such as substance abuse and domestic violence
- displaying constant attention-seeking behaviour owing to a lack of parental involvement
- being over-sexualised because of the possible early exposure to sexually explicit material
- lack of adequate adult supervision at home

“When I got home nobody was there, just the little girl of 7, 8 years old.” (T11, p. 5)

Protection of children from sexual exploitation: participants’ suggestions

The study explored the protection of children from the perspective of the participants. At the time of the interviews, all 18 participants were either involved in sex-offender programmes or had completed programmes offered in the correctional centre where they were incarcerated. They shared suggestions regarding the prevention of child sexual exploitation from the perspective of a perpetrator.

The following suggestions were made:

- The relationship between a mother and father is the basis of a strong family and has a direct impact on children. Parents must seek assistance if they experience trouble in their marriage or with parenting.
- The relationship between parents and children is extremely important and should be nurtured. Parents must be involved in the lives of their children and be knowledgeable about their activities and whereabouts.
- There must be open communication between parents and their children, and fathers especially should be part of this communication process. Children must feel free to discuss any issue with their parents and never keep secrets from them.

- The participants explicitly stated that parents lack information about sex offenders and more specifically their use of pornographic material, which places children at risk.
- Appropriate sex education by parents is essential for the healthy development of children. Parents must share appropriate information about sex with their children since a lack of information makes children vulnerable and easy to influence.

“By the time I was able to pull those children to come and watch pornography, they didn’t know anything about sex. Because they were never told about anything or what could happen.” (T13, p. 9)

- Children should be made aware that pornographic material is a misrepresentation of healthy sexuality and is not sex education.

“Young people of my age should not rush into things they [are] not supposed to be doing. Because in most cases the results of that are not good results and then we all end up here.” (T12, p. 6)

- It is necessary for parents to talk to their children about their sexual orientation and make them feel comfortable.

“Because if you don’t accept yourself, that is where complications come in, that is when pornography, you cannot talk about it, you cannot share it with somebody, so it becomes an obsession.” (T1, p. 19)

- Children must be made aware of the dangers of exposure to pornographic material and the possible influence of pornography on the thoughts and behaviour of a person.

“Just to make them aware it’s an addiction, just like anything else. Just like smoking. So if he takes a cigarette and smokes it secretly in the toilet, it’s the same with pornography. It seems very innocent, but grabs you.” (T1, p. 19)

- The participants felt that the irresponsible behaviour of parents significantly increases the vulnerability of children. The irresponsible use of alcohol and pornographic material in the household contribute to the sexual exploitation of children.
- The participants explicitly stated that pornography on the Internet should be regulated. Children easily gain access to pornographic material through Internet-enabled devices and this puts them at risk. They suggested that the South African government and service providers should work in partnership towards the regulation of sexually explicit material on the Internet. The regulation of pornographic material must further be supported by parents and other members of the community.

“Ban it, there is absolutely nothing good about it.” (T9, p. 20)

- Research information should continuously be available to society to increase awareness and knowledge about ways to protect children from sexual exploitation. Greater awareness and knowledge lead to better protection.
- People should be motivated to report individuals who expose children to pornographic material and sexually abuse children.

It can be inferred from the suggestions made by participants that the prevention of sexual exploitation of children needs to be a multidisciplinary approach involving parents, community members and the government, which needs to be informed by adequate, continuous research information.

Family life and future

All the participants disclosed that pornography had had an extensive influence on them as human beings and because of their destructive behaviour resulting from the influence of pornography, they had ended up hurting the ones they loved most and had lost their closest family members. The participants' involvement with pornographic material had influenced their behaviour in such a way that it had damaged the relationships between individuals in the family unit and had contributed to the family being dysfunctional, as described in the following quotations:

"I was sexually very active, I used drugs, I drank, I did not care about anybody or anything. I believed I was the dominant person, what I said will be done." (T10, p. 20)

"It is my wish, one day when I am released to tell people what I did. It hurts, it destroyed my life. It cost me a marriage, I sincerely love my wife and daughter and lost them due to that." (T9, p. 19)

"Now I find myself in Pollsmoor for four years ... no family or loved ones." (T15, p. 2)

"Pornography is like a rotten apple in a box with other apples. That one apple makes every apple rotten. That is what pornography does; it takes over your thoughts and later your whole life." (T8, p. 11)

Feelings of remorse

It was noteworthy that all 18 participants acknowledged their wrongdoing and expressed feelings of remorse over their criminal behaviour and what they had done to their victims with whom most of them had had a close relationship. Listening intensively to the narratives, it was clear that many participants were angry and blamed themselves for their actions as described by Louis:

"I can't tell you how much I curse myself for doing what I did." (T4, p. 14)

Some participants became highly emotional during the interview, conveying feelings of empathy. Some expressed their desire to meet their victims and apologise to them, as stated by Reinhard:

"I would really like to see the child again and rectify things. Because my love towards him as a child did not change." (T17, p. 4)

Rehabilitation and support

Another superordinate theme that emerged from the analysis of the narratives was the lack of adequate support and rehabilitation for sex offenders who have committed an offence against a child. This theme was spontaneously identified during the in-depth interviews. Some participants disclosed that after initially recognising that they had a problem and needed to change their destructive behaviour, they had attempted to help themselves. However, that had been unsuccessful and their behaviour had continued, as described by Markus:

"I fought against it. I really fought. At times I ignored it, but it sticks inside of you." (T9, p. 13)

Some participants had gained access to psychological help and had received therapy and medication. However, it had not been effective and they had continued with their destructive behaviour, as described by Steve:

"You do a thing because you fall back into the old, because there's nobody." (T1, p. 7)

Participants expressed different views about the support systems and rehabilitation programmes presented by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in correctional centres. Some acknowledged the role of the DCS psychological services and admitted that their incarceration and exposure to the rehabilitation programmes had assisted them and contributed to their overall well-being, as indicated in the following quotations:

"If I was not in prison, were would I have been today?" (T8, p. 9)

"Outside I thought there was nothing wrong for me. But in prison, now I started to realise that it's wrong, it was wrongful." (T13, p. 9)

"It did me very good, every time when she gave class, heaviness comes off my shoulders" (see the Sex Offender Programme presented by DCS social worker). (T16, p. 11)

Some participants revealed that correctional centres are not conducive to the rehabilitation of sex offenders and they do not receive adequate support from DCS psychological services, as disclosed in the following quotations:

"We are supposed to do courses like sexual offender programmes. It is overcrowded and there is a lack of experience, as in my case, it is not just you are a child sex offender there [is] more to it." (T1, p. 4)

"I did not learn anything from the psychologist, I learned more from the social worker." (T10, p. 5)

It was interesting to note that the participants emphasised the accessibility of pornographic material in correctional centres as a major factor obstructing their rehabilitation process, as stated by Hans:

"It bothers me a lot. I am uncomfortable. It makes me think back a lot." (T11, p. 13)

According to most participants, pornographic material is smuggled into correctional centres and mostly accessed by imprisoned offenders through electronic devices such as portable game consoles or cell phones. Some participants revealed that they share a prison cell with many offenders and are forced to view pornographic material since it is displayed to all occupants of the cell.

Further discussion of the limitations and difficulties of rehabilitation indicated that many participants were concerned about their eventual release from the correctional centre. Some participants raised the issue that there would always be children around them and they would feel unsure about how to handle the situation and demonstrate to others that they have been rehabilitated, as described by Reinhard:

“Another thing is how will I be able to show people on the outside that I am rehabilitated?” (T17, p. 11)

Participants also expressed their concern about the easy availability of pornographic material, especially on the Internet, and that they may feel tempted to view pornography again and repeat their destructive behaviour, as explained by Frederick:

“I am afraid I will do the same thing if I look at it again.” (T8, p. 4)

Family support

Many participants revealed that they had disappointed their families and it was important for them to know that their families had forgiven them for what they had done and provide them with support during the rehabilitation process, as clearly stated by Herman:

“I am glad they accepted me and I have people who care, that want to give me chance, they want to support me.” (T10, p. 10).

The narratives disclosed that support from family members through visitations and phone calls are of crucial importance for participants. However, it was interesting to note that only a few of them had actually had recent contact with their family members. Many reported that they had not had any recent contact with their family members and in some cases had been “written off” by a significant family member such as a father or partner.

Figure 5.2 below, provides an illustration of the identified superordinate and subordinate themes presented in this chapter. The illustration suggests that the superordinate themes are interrelated and overall form part of a complex situation.

The superordinate and subordinate themes presented in this chapter can be illustrated as follows:

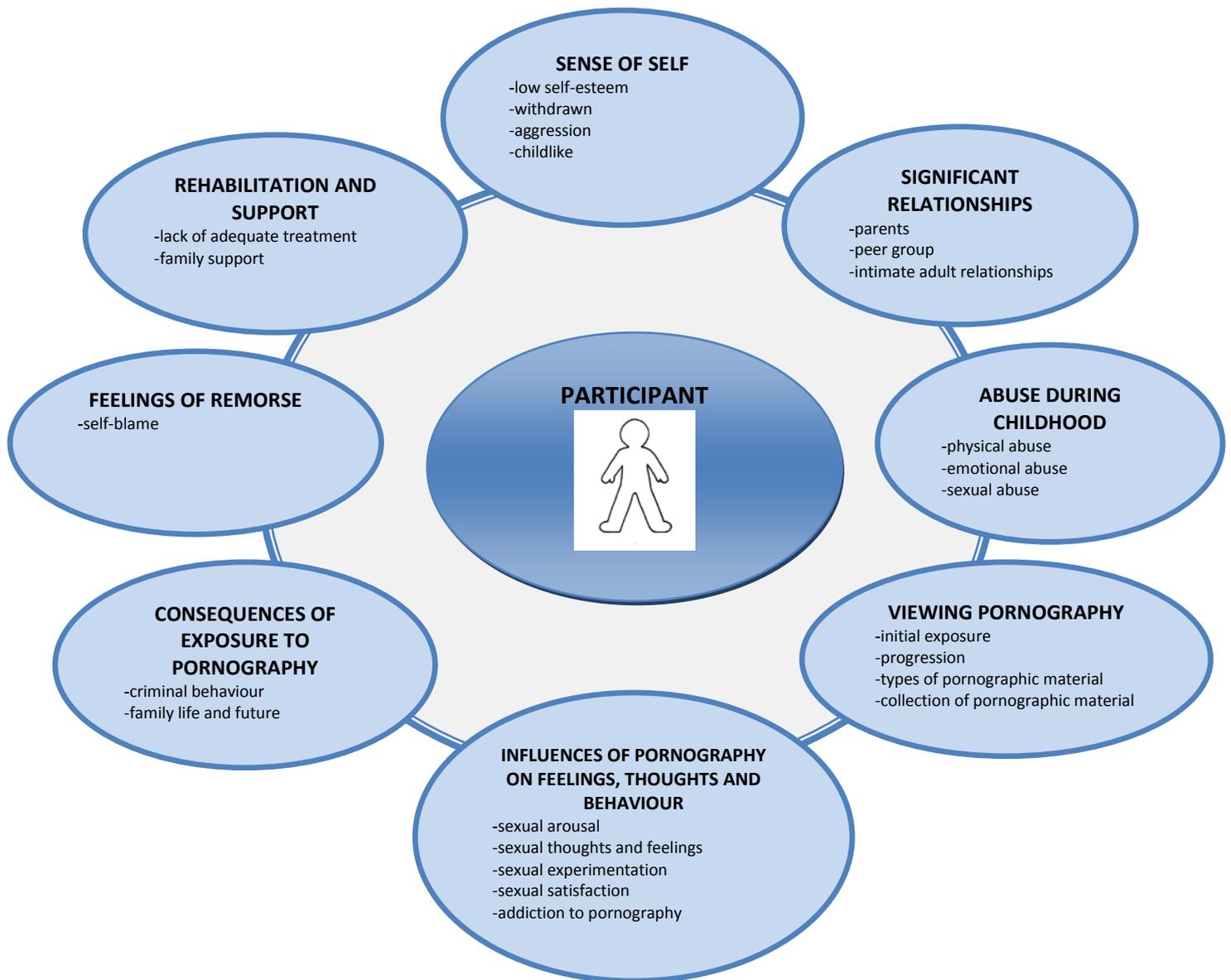


Figure 5.2: Superordinate and subordinate themes

Additional Themes

During the analysis of the narratives, certain additional themes were identified. Although these themes were only reported by a few participants, they will be presented in this chapter in an attempt to contribute to the understanding of the research findings.

Substance abuse

Analysis of the narratives identified the use of substances in the form of illegal drugs and alcohol in two distinctive ways. Firstly, the participants had used illegal drugs and alcohol themselves, and secondly, they had provided their victims with alcohol to relax them and lower their inhibitions, as stated by Jacob:

“If a child drinks with you, then he will be calm and relaxed about it. So, that all, like I said it is all support that you will use.” (T2, p. 6)

Some participants revealed that they had been heavy drinkers and had used illegal drugs such as dagga, which affected their thoughts, judgement and behaviour, as elucidated in the following quotations:

“As I got drunk, the little girl looked more like a grown-up woman.” (T10, p. 12)

“I think basically also substance abuse played a part, that you get a kick out of it. You’re not in your right senses.” (T15, p. 5)

“There was one night when I was under the influence of drugs and alcohol. We were sleeping that evening and I do not know what exactly happened but I apparently tried to rape the child.” (T17, p. 6)

Economic circumstances

It became evident that economic circumstances had had a significant influence on the lives of some participants and in different ways had impacted on their behaviour. These participants mentioned that they had lived in confined spaces such as rooms and garages, which had influenced their privacy and personal boundaries, as revealed in the following quotations:

"It was actually inappropriate the way we were staying." (T7, p. 3)

"We stayed in a Wendy house in the yard, me my wife and the two children." (T16, p. 2)

Two participants disclosed that unemployment had contributed to their involvement with pornography and male prostitution.

Religion

This theme plays a major role in the lives of some participants. These participants draw comfort in devoting their lives to God and knowing that God has forgiven their sins, as described by Markus:

"I am rehabilitated based on the fact that I gave myself to God." (T9, p. 18)

In instances where participants do not have any contact with their family members, they rely on their religion to provide comfort and meaning to their lives, as stated by Frederick:

"That is actually what my life is about, God. Previously that did not matter to me." (T8, p. 15)

Participants valued the religious courses presented at the correctional centres and after being incarcerated, some participants stated that they had moved closer to God and practised more religious activities, as described by Louis:

“I wasn’t a person that prayed every day. I wasn’t a person that put too much faith in the man upstairs. But now I do.” (T4, p. 16)

Regulation of pornographic material

An important additional theme identified was the regulation of pornographic material with the intention of protecting those who are vulnerable to the influences of such material. All the participants expressed their concern about the easy accessibility of pornographic material, especially on the Internet, as described by Matthew:

“But as I say, I heard about this Internet porn and it was just after the Internet came out. There was very little control. And believe me I saw stuff on that Internet that made my hair stand up.” (T5, p. 8)

These participants felt strongly about the importance of the regulation of pornographic material, especially on the Internet. They shared the view that a higher authority such as government should be involved in the regulation of pornographic material and protect both children and adults from inappropriate exposure, as revealed in the following quotations:

“So we weren’t exposed to that pornography. The porn only really started coming in, with all due respect, with the ANC government, when they relaxed everything.” (T5, p. 16)

“I think it’s very, very important. And these porn shops and that, I think they should be regulated as well.” (T7, p. 7)

The findings of this research study provide support for the regulation of sexually explicit material especially on the Internet.

Criminal justice system

Some participants revealed that the criminal justice system does not adequately deal with individuals who have committed a sexual offence involving a child. These participants disclosed that they had not been properly evaluated by professionals and had not received any assistance; they had been categorised as sex offenders and had ended up in a process of which they had no knowledge or control.

Further analysis of the narratives identified weaknesses in the criminal justice system when dealing with sex offenders who had committed an offence involving a child victim such as, inadequate knowledge of sex offender behaviour, unprofessional assessment of sex offenders and the general attitude of professionals towards sex offenders. This is evident from the following quotations:

“One psychiatrist had one session with me of about 15 minutes in the court cell and on that they classified me as a paedophile.” (T5, p. 17)

“The people out there, they believe you are a paedophile and need to be locked up. But they don’t have a clue what you go through.” (T1, p. 5)

“They never listened in court to what I was trying to tell them.” (T17, p. 6)

Conclusion

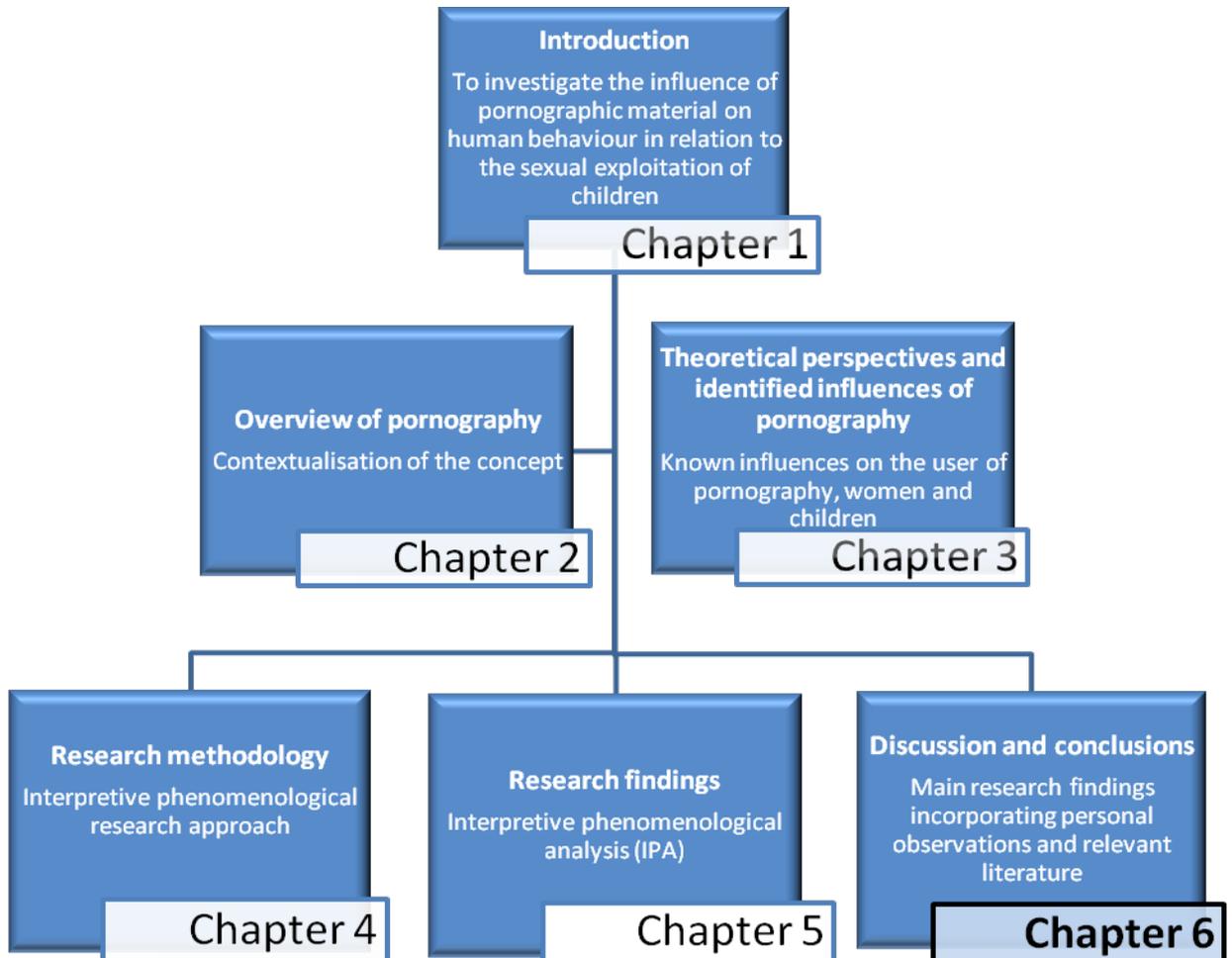
“I would like this research to reach people and the criminal justice system. There is a big gap and that disgust[s] me.” (T1, p. 20)

This chapter focused on the research findings obtained during the research study and began by providing an individual profile of each participant. A wealth of information was gathered through the in-depth interviews conducted with 18 incarcerated sex offenders in three major provinces in South Africa. The researcher attempted to give a true representation of the information provided by the participants and identified a number of superordinate and subordinate themes relating to the research question. The main superordinate themes included: sense of self, significant relationships, abuse during childhood, viewing pornography, influence of pornography on feelings, thoughts and behaviour, consequences of exposure to pornography, feelings of remorse, and rehabilitation and support. The identified themes highlight personal and family characteristics that may increase individuals' susceptibility to the influence of exposure to pornographic material. Moreover, it was found that early, recurrent exposure to pornography results in physiological, cognitive and behavioural effects that considerably increase the level of sexual satisfaction and the need for instantaneous sexual gratification. Often this uncontrollable need for sexual gratification results in destructive behaviour such as addiction to pornographic material, criminal sexual acts involving children, and degeneration of the family system.

Moreover, a number of additional themes were identified which may contribute to the understanding of the research findings, including; substance abuse, economic circumstances, religion, regulation of pornographic material and the criminal justice system. These themes identified powerful contributing factors.

In the following chapter, the identified findings will be discussed, incorporating personal observations and available literature.

Layout of the thesis: Chapter 6



CHAPTER 6

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

It is evident that despite numerous attempts to identify the influence of pornography on human behaviour, only the "tip of the ice berg" is known. The research findings presented in chapter 5 identified the physical, cognitive and behavioural influences of exposure to pornographic material that led to destructive behaviour and had far-reaching negative consequences for personal lives. The research information dealt with in this study should contribute to the available body of knowledge on sexually explicit material. In view of the evolving future of pornographic material resulting from the development of technology, it is imperative that consensus should be reached on the influences of exposure to pornographic material. This has become a matter of urgency as society continues to endure the influences of sexual exploitation of children – hence the need to identify the possible causes underlying sexual offending (Simons, Wurtele, & Durham, 2008). In this chapter, the main research findings presented in chapter 5 will be discussed, incorporating personal observations and views from available literature. The strengths and limitations of the research study will be highlighted and recommendations made.

Overview of the research study

The aim of this study was to investigate the **influence of exposure to pornography on human behaviour, particularly in relation to the sexual exploitation of children**. As indicated in the literature review, pornography remains an intense topic of debate, and there is a great deal of information available on the subject. The work of Donnerstein (1984), Donnerstein et al. (1987), Malamuth (1981), Malamuth and Check (1981; 1985) and Zillmann and Bryant (1984; 1988; 1989) are some of the earlier studies often consulted when reviewing the available literature on pornography.

There appeared to be heightened research interest in the influence of sexually explicit material in the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s. However, as sexually explicit material became more accepted in society, a decrease in the available research material was noted. This is nonetheless on the increase again owing to the availability of Internet pornography. However, literature on the influences of pornographic material remains inconclusive. Pornography is a highly subjective topic, and Russell (1988) argues that the inconclusiveness might be ascribed to the different academic backgrounds of researchers and the failure to adopt a conclusive standpoint. The research findings of this study confirm many of the findings reported in the literature and should contribute to a better understanding of the influences of pornography that could diminish the existing uncertainty and motivate the regulation of sexually explicit material.

The research methodology used in this study was grounded in phenomenology. Although the researcher interacted with more than 60 sentenced sex offenders nationwide over a six-month period, not all of them met the criteria for participating in the study. Offenders who mentioned exposure to pornographic material but had committed a sexual crime against an adult victim and others who had committed a sexual crime against a child, but did not mention any exposure to pornographic material, were excluded from further research analysis. Finally, a total of 18 in-depth interview transcripts were selected on the basis of the stated criteria for inclusion. These transcripts provided adequate research information to address the main research question.

Upon self-reflection, the researcher attempted to be as objective as possible but owing to the nature of the qualitative enquiry, inevitable feelings of empathy were experienced and recognised and accounted for during interpretation. Interviewing participants was furthermore thought-provoking and the researcher was fascinated by the complex nature of their lived experience. The intensive abuse and maltreatment experienced by some worried the researcher, and at times she was amazed at the endurance of some human beings, despite their undesirable circumstances and harmful experiences.

The researcher soon realised that the participants appreciated the opportunity to share their lived experiences with an outsider whom they had never met before. Some participants disclosed that they enjoyed participating in the research study and reflecting on what had happened in their lives and how this had impacted on themselves and others. The researcher's personal observation was that the male participants who had been incarcerated for longer were more comfortable during the in-depth interviews and willing to share comprehensive information in comparison with the female participants who seemed to be more reserved. Despite the fact that the researcher clearly explained to the participants that she was doing research and would conduct one in-depth interview with each participant, many indicated that they would like her to visit them again and continue talking about their lived experiences. This was comforting to the researcher and also emphasised the need for individual interaction with the participants.

After spending some time with the participants, it became clear that sexual offending is a multifaceted issue involving several aspects. The feelings of remorse and self-blame experienced by most of them and pressing questions about their reintegration into society, were noticeable and made the researcher think about the crucial role of psychological and other support services in the correctional centres. She also noticed differences in the commitment and approach of the DCS psychologists and social workers from different correctional centres towards the incarcerated sexual offenders. Some DCS psychologists were familiar with the sexual offenders detained in their particular correctional centre and recognised the importance of suitable therapeutic interventions and sex offender programmes for these individuals. These DCS psychologists thus attempted to use the available resources and time to provide psychological services for sex offenders. However, other DCS psychologists had difficulty identifying the sexual offenders owing to limited contact with them and did not provide any therapeutic support or sex offender programmes for these individuals. This was primarily ascribed to a huge workload, and in these cases, the DCS social workers appeared to be more involved.

The extensive information gathered during the in-depth interviews was interpreted according to the meaning and significance derived from the lived experience of the individuals. Using IPA, the researcher identified a number of superordinate and subordinate themes. The main superordinate themes were as follows:

- sense of self
- significant relationships
- abuse during childhood
- viewing pornography
- influence of pornography on feelings, thoughts and behaviour
- consequences of exposure to pornography
- feelings of remorse
- rehabilitation and support

A number of additional themes were also identified which contributed to the overall interpretation of the research findings. These were as follows:

- substance abuse
- economic circumstances
- religion
- regulation of pornographic material
- criminal justice system

While working through the transcripts, it became clear that there were a number of similarities between the information shared by the participants, and the researcher felt confident that she had identified the most important themes. These themes will be discussed in the next section.

Discussion of research findings

Theme 1: Sense of self

The first superordinate theme involved the personality of the participants who displayed aspects of low self-esteem and a lack of self-confidence such as being unpopular, socially withdrawn and aggressive towards others. Self-esteem can be defined as how much value a person places on himself or herself, and it is a perception rather than reality. Low self-esteem therefore refers to an unfavourable definition of the self, which can be an accurate understanding of one's shortcomings as a person or a distorted, even pathological sense of insecurity and inferiority (Baumeister, Campbell, Krueger, & Vohs, 2003).

It appeared that the participants' low self-esteem and lack of self-confidence were a consequence of their dysfunctional family environment characterised by emotional neglect and rejection. Humanistic psychologists such as Rogers have argued that a lack of unconditional positive self-regard is linked to many psychological problems (Brent Donnellan, Trzesniewski, Robins, Moffitt, & Caspi, 2005). According to Marshall and Mazzucco (1995), sexual offenders have a significantly lower self-esteem and lack self-confidence, resulting primarily from their experiences as children, which made them more susceptible to potentially harmful influences that could result in their becoming sexual offenders.

As a result of their poor self-esteem and lack of self-confidence, the participants had at times found interaction with their adult peers stressful and had felt more comfortable among children. Previous research studies (Marshall, 1997; Gorth, 1983, and West, 1987, in Robertiello & Terry, 2007) have found that because of poor social skills, many sexual offenders find comfort in relationships with children who are perceived to be less threatening than adults. They not only seek sexual satisfaction with children, but also enjoy feeling in control and being admired by children. This is similar to the findings identified in the current research study.



The study included a diverse group of participants from different socioeconomic backgrounds across different provinces in South Africa. Commonalities between them were evident, especially with regard to personality traits, dysfunctional family environments and problematic relationships with adults. Similar commonalities were identified by Terry (2006, in Robertiello & Terry, 2007) who found that child abusers have common characteristics including low self-esteem, feelings of inadequacy, a sense of worthlessness, poor social skills and difficulties with adult relationships. These research findings should be useful in the early identification of vulnerable individuals who might be more susceptible to harmful external influences such as pornographic material.

Theme 2: Significant relationships

The second superordinate theme that was identified related to the significant relationships the participants had had with others such as parents and peers, and intimate relationships with adult partners. The first and second superordinate themes were strongly interlinked since the personality of the participants greatly influenced their relationships with others.

The researcher was fascinated by the significant role parents play in the lives of their children, especially the father. The research study found that most of the participants had grown up in single-parent households with the mother being the primary caregiver and an absent father. This is similar to the research of Marshall, Serran, and Coroni (2000, in Marshall & Marshall, 2000) who reported that child molesters had poorer attachments to fathers than to mothers. Currently, South Africa is one of the countries worldwide with the highest number of absent fathers. According to the South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR) (www.news24.com), only 33% of children in South Africa live with both parents, the rest living with single parents of whom most live with mothers. In this regard, Jonker and Du Preez (2012) express concern that single parents do not show interest in their children's lives because of obligations at work and concerns they may reject their children, which puts them at risk.

In addition, single parents might entrust their children or even be in relationships with people who might be child sex offenders who focus on these vulnerable families. The high prevalence of single-parent households significantly increases the vulnerability of South African children and necessitates the need for additional support structures.

These findings from the current research study points to an ecological understanding of the influences of pornographic material on human behaviour. The study found that the participants had been exposed to dysfunctional family environments characterised by violence, unstable relationships and abuse. This had resulted in the development of low self-esteem, a sense of rejection and attention-seeking behaviour. Marshall (1997) reported that parents who are neglectful or abusive and inconsistently enforce rules produce in their children anxieties and confusion about their worth, and these children, as a consequence, will develop a poor self-concept and low self-esteem. The available literature suggests that poor relationships with parents, negative family environments and adverse developmental experiences are common among sexual offenders and plausibly associated with the origins of sexual crimes (Hanson, 2001; Marshall & Marshall, 2000; Ward & Beech, 2006). According to Richards (2011) a range of factors has been found to interact with childhood experiences of sexual victimisation and to differentially impact a child's likelihood of later becoming a perpetrator. Factors that increase this likelihood include:

- experiencing emotional and physical abuse or neglect as a child
- being exposed to family violence; and
- early exposure to pornography

It is clear that most of the participants had had troublesome relationships with adults during childhood and essential social interaction with their peers had been restricted. The participants therefore lacked positive role models and the experiences associated with constructive relationships, and they continued the dysfunctional relationship cycle in their own adult lives and families. The current study found that most participants had intimate heterosexual relationships with adult partners, some were married whilst others were involved in homosexual relationships. However, these relationships were mostly unstable and support the assertion by Richards (2011) that child sex offenders are a heterogenous

group of individuals with varying offender profiles. Not all child sex offenders are paedophiles.

Theme 3: Abuse during childhood

The third superordinate theme concerned the abuse experienced during childhood. The participants reported extensive abuse in the form of emotional, physical and sexual abuse of which the latter was the most prominent form of abuse experienced by them. The researcher was concerned about the extent of abuse experienced by the participants, especially during childhood, and the influence of this abuse on their development.

Johnson (2004, p. 462) formulated the following extensive definition of child sexual abuse:

[S]uch abuse can be defined as any activity with a child before the age of legal consent that is for the sexual gratification of an adult or a substantially older child. These activities include oral-genital, genital-genital, genital-rectal, hand-genital, hand-rectal, or hand-breast contact; exposure to sexual anatomy, forced viewing of sexual anatomy and showing pornography to a child or using a child in the production of pornography.

The consequences of child sexual abuse are both physical and psychological and persist through adulthood (Johnson, 2004). Child sexual abuse as described by the participants in the current study had had immediate and long-term psychological influences that had continued into adulthood including, inter alia, anxiety, depression, marital conflict and divorce, sexual dysfunction and substance abuse.

This finding in the current study supports the "sexually abused-sexual abuser" hypothesis, which states that there is an association between the experience of childhood sexual abuse and sexual offences later in life (Jespersen, Lalumiere, & Seto, 2009). However, it is important to note that despite having experienced sexual abuse during childhood, it was clear that participants in this study had lived complex lives, including problems such as personality challenges, dysfunctional family environments and abuse, which had influenced their behaviour during adulthood. Jespersen et al. (2009) confirm that childhood sexual

abuse is often accompanied by other forms of abuse, family hardship and problem behaviours. However, it is difficult to determine whether the experience of sexual abuse has a unique association with the commission of sexual offence. As rightly stated by Richards (2011) not all child sex offenders have been victims of sexual abuse themselves and there are complex relationships between being a victim of child sexual abuse and becoming a perpetrator, which require further research. It is important to recognise that while many offenders report a history of being sexually abused, most victims of child sexual abuse do not become perpetrators later in life.

The lack of response and support received by the participants, despite attempts to report the abuse to caregivers or individuals in authority positions such as teachers, was alarming. This finding emphasises the need for information among parents, caregivers and community members regarding the early identification and appropriate reporting of any suspected incidents of abuse.

Theme 4: Viewing pornography

The fourth superordinate theme concerned exposure to pornography. According to Bauserman (1996), in the last 25 years, research has found that sex offenders are exposed to pornographic material at later ages than nonoffenders and do not necessarily have unusual experiences with sexually explicit material. In the current study, it appeared that participants had initially been exposed to pornographic material at a young age which had had a direct influence on their sexual knowledge, attitudes and behaviour. This corresponds to the finding of previous studies (Fagan, 2009; Flood, 2009), which reported that pornography has adverse influences on children and can lead to emotional disturbance, sexual knowledge and liberalised attitudes, sexual exploration as well as sexist and objectifying understandings. In this regard, Simmons et al. (2008) found that sexual offenders often report a history of early exposure to pornography.

These findings emphasise the fact that children should not be prematurely exposed to pornographic material because they are emotionally too immature for such exposure and develop distorted views about sexuality which can have a significant impact on their relationships in their adult lives.

The study identified exposure to both traditional forms of pornography such as magazines and DVDs as well as pornography on the Internet. Embracing technology has clearly opened a new dimension of pornography. It has significantly increased the likelihood of exposure to more technologically enhanced forms of sexually explicit material. Döring (2009) confirms that unique to the Internet is the immense quantity and extremely wide range of often free pornographic material accessible to anyone, anonymously, regardless of time or place. In this regard Cooper et al. (2000) argue that the three characteristics of the Internet, accessibility, affordability and anonymity (known as the Triple-A engine), drive its use. In addition, using the Internet for sexual purposes may be counterproductive to normal healthy sexual development in certain individuals because it provides a means of obtaining obscure forms of sexually explicit images and even child pornography.

Of primary concern is the fact that children have access to Smartphones which provide them with fast, easy access to the Internet and inevitable pornographic material which, as described above, has detrimental influences on their sexual development and behaviour. The findings of the current study provide sufficient support for the regulation of pornographic material on the Internet and the protection of vulnerable groups in society such as children.

In this study, the participants specifically alluded to the fact that after their initial exposure to pornography they had become hooked on viewing pornography, and there had been a progression in their viewing behaviour regarding the type of pornography and frequency of viewing. Struthers (2011) confirms that the experience of viewing pornography and acting out on it creates a demand in the brain for increasingly more, merely to achieve the same level of pleasure in the brain. The participants had developed a preoccupation with pornography and had viewed it on a daily basis. For example, two participants reported that

they had viewed pornography as soon as they arrived at home after work, and had found it difficult to continue with their usual activities.

All the participants in this study had started viewing ordinary heterosexual pornography and then- progressed to viewing more hardcore forms of pornography and some even child pornography. Based on the social learning theory suggesting that pornography can increase dysfunctional sexual behaviour because it portrays this behaviour as rewarding, it seems likely that the participants who had committed a sexual offence against a child, had viewed child pornography. However, the current study found that the participants who had viewed ordinary heterosexual pornography had sexually exploited children. Hence it is not necessarily the type of pornography viewed, but the overall influence of sexually explicit images on feelings, thoughts and behaviour that can motivate deviant sexual behaviour. Similar findings were reported in a comparative study conducted among 97 sex offenders in Alberta and Ontario in Canada. The study found that individuals who had committed offences against children had used child pornography infrequently. Moreover, relative to a comparison group, child sex offenders were actually less likely to have ever used child pornography (Langevin, Lang, Wright, Handy, Frenzel, & Black, 1988).

Theme 5: Influence of pornography on feelings, thoughts and behaviour

The main research question was to identify the influence of exposure to pornography on human behaviour, particularly in relation to the sexual exploitation of children. The debate on the potential influence of pornography on human behaviour is profound because of the prevalence of and concern about the sexual exploitation of children. There is no consensus in the scientific community about the influences of exposure to pornography, and establishing the existence of a particular influence represents an enormous leap forward (Allen, D'Alession et al., 1995). Research has tended to focus on exposure to pornography in general, and little empirical attention in the psychological and psychiatric literature has focused on the actual use or production of pornography by sex offenders during the commission of their sexual crimes (Langevin & Curnoe, 2004). Hence the current research study attempted to investigate an area less studied, by providing information on how exposure to pornography is implied in the sexual exploitation of children.

It was noteworthy that the participants provided a substantial amount of information on the self-perceived influence of pornography on their associated feelings, thoughts and behaviour. The researcher experienced the discussion about the influences of pornography as one of the most dynamic parts of the interview. The findings of the study suggest that the influence of pornography on human behaviour involves a complex combination of physiological, cognitive and behavioural elements. This finding is similar to those in earlier studies on the influence of pornographic material (Donnerstein et al., 1987; Fagan, 2009; Linz & Malamuth, 1993; Zillman, 1989). It appeared that when viewing pornographic material, the participants experienced a physical reaction in terms of sexual arousal, which had been extremely intense and had resulted in a need for instant sexual satisfaction. Combined with the sexual arousal were the recurrent sexual images which had generated sexual fantasies and frequent masturbation. The current study found that despite attempts to stop the images from reoccurring, they had had long-lasting influences on the person's thoughts and were constantly recalled, which further intensified the experience.

The findings of this study support further neurological investigations into the influence of pornographic images on the human brain. According to Struthers (2011), the neurobiological aspects of pornographic material, such as its appeal, addictive properties and long-lasting influences, have received little attention, although an understanding of these aspects is essential to understanding the overall impact of exposure to pornographic material. Struthers (2011) further elaborates that the impact of viewing pornography takes over the normal functioning of the brain and the maladaptive patterns that are adopted have profound psychological and behavioural influences. The human brain (more particularly the male brain) seems to be gripped by visual cues that have sexual relevance, and when these visual cues are detected, they trigger neurological, chemical and hormonal events (Struthers, 2011). The way in which an individual deals with these events was identified in the current research study as being fundamental. The integrated theory of sexual offending (ITSO) developed by Ward and Beech (2006) also emphasise that it is necessary to look at biological and neuroscientific factors to explain a complex problem such as sexual offending.

As a result of the intense sexual arousal and continuous recalling of sexual images, the participants' behaviour had been influenced in an attempt to obtain sexual satisfaction, despite potentially adverse consequences. According to Fagan (2009), the need for more intense sexual stimulation brought on by pornography can lead to boredom and sexual dissatisfaction in normal relationships and a greater likelihood of accepting sexual permissiveness. The immediate environment of the participants had been affected when they started to experiment sexually with their partners, but as they continued to view pornographic material and practise sexual behaviour, it became extremely difficult to obtain sexual satisfaction and they moved beyond their partners to children who were easily accessible in the household or close environment of the participant. Seto et al. (2001) emphasise the fact that individuals who are already predisposed to sexually offend are most likely to show an effect of pornography exposure and are more likely to show the strongest influences.

The current research study identified the influence of pornographic material on behaviour as a chain reaction characterised by a physical and cognitive influence that is pleasurable and leads to a behavioural reaction. In addition, the study also found that the participants had found the exercise of control of the physical, cognitive and behavioural influences extremely difficult. Control is about being able to effectively deal with the situation within imposed confines, and although the participants attempted to gain control, they were unsuccessful, which caused further distress. This was consistent with earlier findings reported by Hanson and Harris (2000) that sex offenders committing crimes against children had displayed problems with sexual self-regulation.

The current research study included two female sex offenders who had reported extensive exposure to pornographic material. It was clear that these participants had not experienced the same influences as those reported by the male participants, although they had been heavily involved in the viewing of pornography. This was similar to previous studies conducted among female sex offenders (Denov, 2004; Kemshall, 2004), which found that the viewing of pornographic material among female sex offenders is almost always under the domination of a male partner, simply for his satisfaction.

The findings of the current study also support earlier studies (McKenzie-Mohr & Zanna, 1990; Seto et al., 2001) in identifying the fact that viewing pornography greatly influenced the perception about women. As a result of their frequent exposure to sexually explicit material, the participants in this study mainly viewed women in a sexual manner or as sex objects. During one specific in-depth interview, a male participant avoided eye contact with the researcher; he kept looking away and only turned his head occasionally to look at her. After enquiring about this behaviour, the participant admitted that he struggled to look at women because he only viewed them in a sexual manner and tended to recall the pornographic images he had been exposed to when he had had contact with a woman.

Several studies (Allen et al., 1995; Donnerstein et al., 1987; Seto et al., 2001; Zillmann & Bryant, 1984; 1990) have explored the influence of exposure to pornography on violent sexual behaviour and rape. Most of these studies found that exposure to violent pornography were associated with an increase in aggression towards women and the trivialisation of rape as a criminal offence. However, it is notable that despite the fact that the participants in the current study had frequently viewed hardcore pornographic material incorporating hostile sexual behaviour, they had expressed strong opinions against violent sexual behaviour and rape. There may be several reasons for this. Firstly, it should be kept in mind that the primary focus of this study was on the sexual exploitation of children, and the mind-set of the sexual offender who commits a crime against a child may differ from that of a sexual offender who commits a crime against an adult victim. Secondly, the study identified the fact that the participants had distorted views about their relationships with the child victims who had generally been perceived to be extremely close and emotionally involved. Thirdly, this study highlighted the fact that environmental influences play a significant role in the lives of child sexual offenders, which may influence their opinions about certain kinds of sexual behaviour. It is therefore likely that child sex offenders may express feelings of dislike towards violent sexual behaviour and rape.

It was noteworthy that the participants in the current study emphasised that they had become addicted to pornographic material. According to Goodman (1992), sexual addiction refers to a behaviour pattern essentially characterised by loss of control, and continuation despite harmful consequences. Cline (2001, in Perrin et al., 2008) identified four stages of pornography addiction which were similar to the findings identified in this study. In the first stage, the viewer is hooked on pornographic material and keeps coming back for more. It becomes a sexual stimulant recalled during masturbation and sexual intercourse. In the second stage, escalation, the materials are needed to achieve similar levels of stimulation. In the third stage, desensitisation, materials that were once viewed as shocking become more acceptable and perceived as common practice. In the last stage, acting out sexually, the consumer engages in sexual behaviour similar to the behaviours viewed in the pornographic materials, which may include having sex with children.

In addition, the current research study identified poor availability of support systems for individuals who have become addicted to pornographic material. The researcher was discouraged by the fact that some participants had attempted to obtain psychological help before committing an offence, but without any success. This made her consider the accessibility and adequacy of available psychological services, especially to deal with issues such as addiction to online pornographic material and sexual deviant behaviour. Taking into consideration the high penetration of the Internet among individuals and ease of accessing sexually explicit material online, support services dealing with addiction to pornography have become an essential service. This has a direct impact on the psychology profession. As increasingly more individuals experience problems relating to online sexual activities, the psychologist's role becomes increasingly important to understand, assess and provide adequate therapeutic interventions.

The research information gathered on the influence of pornographic material on human behaviour in relation to the sexual exploitation of children is significant to assist with the detection of possible offenders who might commit sexual offences against children, and inform preventive strategies to protect children from possible sexual exploitation.



Theme 6: Consequences of exposure to pornography

This superordinate theme considered the most significant consequences resulting from the participants' involvement with pornographic material. Participants emphasised that reflecting back on their lives, viewing pornographic material over time had had various consequences relating to their criminal behaviour and personal relationships with loved ones. During the in-depth interviews, it appeared as if the participants wanted to convince the researcher about the extent of the overall impact pornography had had on their lives. Most of them were adamant that viewing pornographic material had motivated them to commit sexual offences against children, owing to the influence of exposure to sexually explicit images. This research finding was different from that of previous studies regarding the role of pornography and sexual offending. According to Bauserman (1996), only a minority of offenders acknowledge any role of pornography in their behaviour. However, Seto et al. (2001) emphasise that pornography may have a direct or indirect influence on sexual offending, although it requires the presence of additional factors to have these influences, as identified in the current research study. Based on Marshall and Barbaree's integrated theory of sexual offending, sexual abuse is an outcome of multiple interacting factors including biological, psychological, social, cultural and situational factors (Ward, 2002).

The available literature suggests that child sexual offenders are more likely to use pornographic material prior to (self-stimulation), during (grooming of the victim) and after (later self-stimulation and monetary gain) the sexual offence (Elliott, Browne, & Kilcoyne, 1995; Langevin & Curnoe, 2004; Perrin et al., 2008). The current study identified the fact that the participants had used pornographic material in two distinct ways. Firstly, viewing pornography had motivated them to commit sexual offences owing to the intense influence of the material on their associated feelings, thoughts and behaviour. This was consistent with the research findings of Marshall (1988) who reported that pornography had been used as a crucial driver in sexual offending. Secondly, pornography had been used as a support mechanism during the grooming process. McAlinden (2006, in Kloess, Beech, & Harkins (2014, p. 340) defines grooming as *"the situation whereby a potential offender will*

set up opportunities to abuse by gaining the trust of the child in order to prepare them for abuse". This can be done either directly or via computer-mediated communication.

During the in-depth interviews, the participants described how they had engaged their victims in a grooming process by exposing them to pornographic material which normalised sexual activity and oversexualised the victims. The grooming process had made it easier for them to commit the offence. In this regard, Struthers (2011) describes mimicking behaviour. Whenever an individual observes behaviour, it is neurologically mirrored, which enables the individual to learn by observing others. A similar process is also involved when an individual views pornography, and this may have negative consequences such as those identified in the current research study relating to the grooming of children to perform sexual acts. It was interesting to note that some participants described the sexual exploitation of children as an egocentric crime since the child victims had been groomed through the use of sexually explicit images to do exactly what the offender had wanted them to do in order to satisfy his or her sexual needs.

The participants' criminal behaviour had a huge impact on their personal lives, especially the family unit since most of their victims had been close family members such as their own biological children or children who had been extremely close to the family. This finding from the current study supports the assertion made by Richards (2011) that children are usually abused by someone they know, such as a parent, caregiver, family friend or neighbour. According to Fagan (2009), sexual malformation resulting from the consumption of pornography not only affects the consumer of pornography, but also has an impact on those close to him or her. The viewing of pornography can break down relational bonds and interaction with family, friends and society.

Individual users tend to become hooked on viewing pornographic material, which generally causes them to lose interest in relationships and limits their social interaction with others. Moreover, it creates a distance between sexual partners since men viewing pornography are likely to feel less satisfied with their sexual relationship and lose interest in sexual intimacy with their partner.

Children, in particular, can be directly and indirectly influenced by pornography because when a parent or family member is consuming pornography, it limits positive contact between parents and children and eliminates the warmth of an affectionate family life. Overall, the viewing of pornographic material by a parent threatens a child's well-being by undermining the stability of the marital and family relationships and increasing the child's risk of exposure to sexually explicit content and/or behaviour (Manning, 2006).

The findings of the current study clearly show the extensive impact of sexually explicit material on the lives of individuals and foster further understanding of the direct and indirect influence of exposure to pornographic material on the individual and broader family system.

Theme 7: Feelings of remorse

Feelings of remorse and self-blame experienced by the participants go hand-in-hand with the discussion of the consequences of viewing sexually explicit images.

The current research study identified feelings of empathy and remorse among the participants. Previous research studies (Marshall & Barbaree, 1990; Marshall, Hudson, Jones, & Fernandez, 1995) have reported that sex offenders lack empathy, and this general lack of empathy allows child sex offenders to sexually abuse their victims. The current research study found that most of the participants showed feelings of empathy and remorse. This may be ascribed to the nature of the relationship between the child sexual offender and the victim. The participants described their relationships with their child victims as being extremely close. In many instances, the child sexual offender was the provider and protector of the child and the family. According to the perception of the participants, the victims had been vulnerable and had depended on them to meet their needs. Some participants became emotional during the interview, regretting what they had done to their victims and their families and had expressed the desire to be forgiven. These findings were different from those in previous studies, which found that child sex offenders do not easily admit that they are guilty and rarely take responsibility for their

actions, which has a negative impact on their seeking help as well as their rehabilitation (Jonker, 2011, in Jonker & Du Preez, 2012).

It seemed as if reflecting back on their lives during the interview intensified their feelings of remorse and self-blame. Some participants expressed strong feelings of self-blame and the researcher felt that they needed additional psychological help to effectively deal with these feelings and contribute to their rehabilitation. Nevertheless, it should be kept in mind that some child sex offenders may exaggerate feelings of remorse and self-blame to elicit sympathy.

Theme 8: Rehabilitation and support

This theme was spontaneously identified during the in-depth interviews. The desire of the participants for support from close family members and friends was evident. However, owing to the nature of their crimes, most of the participants admitted that they had received minimal support from their family members and friends. In some instances, there had been attempts to restore the relationships, which seemingly had had a tremendous positive impact on the participant and the rehabilitation process. A support system is important and essential for child sex offenders, especially when they are released (Jonker & Du Preez, 2012).

Owing to the general lack of support from family members and friends, the participants needed to find alternative ways of coping with the distressing feelings and situation in which they had found themselves. The current study identified the importance of sex offender support programmes provided by the DCS in the correctional centres. This was similar to the findings of Jonker and Du Preez (2012), who emphasised the critical role of the DCS in the rehabilitation of sex offenders. The imprisonment of child sex offenders can only be seen as a temporary solution, and every effort should be made to ensure that appropriate therapeutic interventions are made to break their deviant behavioural patterns after their release. The lack of appropriate services, insensitive responses as well as stigma attached to child sex offenders might hamper effective treatment.

The general belief is that child sex offenders do not want to be helped. However, similar to the current study, other researchers (Steyn, 1999) found that the child sex offenders had wanted to get help and recognised their problem. The participants relied heavily on sex offender support programmes to make sense of what had happened in their lives and deal with their current situation and rehabilitation. Unfortunately, it became clear that in some instances, the current programmes were not always beneficial for them. It is evident that together with overcrowded correctional centres and limited access to psychological services, the situation only exacerbates their feelings of helplessness and hopelessness.

The current study identified the fact that the incarcerated sex offenders had a great deal of exposure to pornographic material in the correctional centres where they were being detained, which is likely to interfere with the rehabilitation process. Spencer (1999, in Marshall, 2000) argues that all forms of pornography should be banned from correctional centres. This argument rests on the idea that pornography use both directly instigates sexual offending and conveys messages that contradict the attitudes therapy attempts to instil. However, this might not always be possible and it is therefore always better to educate individuals about the possible harmful influences of pornography and how to deal with these influences as part of sex offender support programmes.

Furthermore, the findings of this study highlight the particular concern participants expressed about their release back into society and fear of recommitting the same offence. This was mainly ascribed to the easy availability of pornographic material, especially on the Internet, and contact with children. This particular concern shows that these pertinent issues relating to the rehabilitation of sex offenders are not adequately addressed in the current sex offender programmes. The researcher did not always know how to adequately respond to the participants' concerns about rehabilitation and their eventual release from the correctional centre, although she did detect that this was a burning issue, which required proactive therapeutic intervention.

According to Marshall and Serran (2000), the prevalence of sexual offences and the devastating influences on victims justify the continuous improvement treatment programmes. The treatment of sexual offenders remains a controversial and misunderstood subject and there are many questions that need to be answered concerning which form of treatment would be the most effective for sex offenders.

The research findings of the current study have significant implications for the design and implementation of appropriate offender treatment programmes, specifically for sex offenders who commit crimes against children, in correctional centres throughout South Africa. This points to Finkelhor's theory that gives emphasis to clear treatment goals and clinical innovations, for example, targeting deviant sexual arousal, strengthening emotional regulating skills, working on intimacy issues, focusing on socio-cultural factors and teaching offenders how to identify and manage high-risk situations (Ward & Hudson, 2001).

The DCS needs to be proactive and recognise that all child sex offenders have individual differences and different levels of cognition, which necessitate different methods of intervention and treatment (Jonker & Du Preez, 2012). In this regard, Grubin (2007) and Marshall et al. (2000) suggest that successful sexual offender programmes require many hours of treatment, and although most sexual offender programmes are delivered in group format, sexual deviance is better dealt with on a one-to-one basis. Similarly, Hanson (2001) found that child sex offenders can possibly be rehabilitated when they are subjected to intensive, long-term therapy. However, they must adhere to intensive and continued programme participation during their incarceration, and more importantly, still during their conditional release as part of their social reintegration. Bradford, Federoff, and Gulati (2013) emphasise that further research needs to be done on current and new treatments of problematic sexual interest and behaviour to increase the efficiency of treatment programmes.

All the superordinate themes discussed, contributed to the understanding of the influence of pornography on human behaviour in relation to the sexual exploitation of children and the broader impact for South African society.

Additional themes

At this stage, it is also necessary to briefly discuss the additional themes identified in the research study since they highlight other important factors contributing to the sexual dysfunctional behaviour of individuals which places children at risk. These themes include substance abuse, economic circumstances, religion, regulation of pornographic material and the criminal justice system, which emerged during some interviews, but were noteworthy and therefore discussed.

This research study found that substance abuse, especially alcohol, motivated some of the participants' irresponsible behaviour. Parents who abused alcohol often neglected their responsibility to take care of their children and depended on other individuals to ensure that their children are nurtured. This behaviour increased the vulnerability of children to be sexually abused. In addition, it was found that some of the participants had given their victims alcohol to lower their inhibitions as part of the grooming process.

Furthermore, the study identified that unfavourable economic circumstances such as unemployment contributed to some of the participants' involvement with pornographic material and criminal behaviour. A few participants stated that because of limited financial means, they had stayed with their family members in confined spaces such as small rooms, and consequently had had to share beds with children. The lack of personal space and privacy had contributed to their sexual criminal behaviour.

It was noteworthy that some participants emphasised that the easy availability of pornography and lack of regulation of sexually explicit material on the Internet, significantly contributed to their sexual dysfunctional behaviour. This again underscores the need to regulate pornographic material, not only for children, but also other vulnerable adults who are directly involved in the lives of children. With due consideration of the increasing availability of pornography, it is essential to increase awareness of the impact of pornographic material and the far-reaching consequences of developing more appropriate ways to deal with exposure. The findings of the current study provide sufficient support for

the development and implementation of regulations and policies regarding access to pornographic material on the Internet.

Another additional theme identified by the research study was related to the child sex offenders' experience with the criminal justice system. Based on the findings of the current research study, it is evident that the criminal justice system does not adequately deal with individuals who have committed a sexual offence against a child. This might be ascribed to a lack of knowledge and understanding of the complex nature of sexual offending or stigma attached to child sex offenders. Consequently, the shortcomings in the criminal justice system have had severe consequences for the individuals who participated in the research study.

Lastly, this study found that religion plays an imperative role in the lives of many incarcerated sex offenders. During the interviews with some participants, it was clear that the religious comfort received from spiritual programmes provided in the correctional centre was extremely necessary in their lives. This embracing of religious programmes within correctional centres can further be explored by DCS and integrated into the rehabilitation process of child sex offenders.

Protection of children from sexual exploitation: Participants' suggestions

The study explored the protection of children from the perspective of the participants. According to Elliott et al. (1995), offenders who abuse children provide a unique source of information which is important when considering prevention work. All 18 participants made suggestions about the prevention of child sexual exploitation from the perspective of a perpetrator. These were listed in chapter 5. The suggestions focused on the importance of healthy family relationships and implied the need for relevant information on pornographic material and the sexual exploitation of children. One can infer from the participants' suggestions that prevention of sexual exploitation of children needs to be a multidisciplinary approach involving all those who play a role in the lives of children (parents, caregivers and teachers), and the government, which is a pertinent role player in the regulation of

pornographic material and the protection of children. In this regard, all the prevention strategies and efforts need to be based on reliable research information.

In the available literature, several suggestions have been made about dealing with pornography in society, and these also apply to South African society. According to Cohn (1986), the major focus of prevention efforts should be on potential perpetrators and on the cultural and societal values that allow the problem to persist. More than 20 years ago, Cohn (1986) presented a five-part prevention strategy emanating from conference discussions on the sexual exploitation of children. This strategy is still highly relevant today and seemingly has not yet been put into practice. The five-part prevention comprises the following:

- Quality sex education should be provided for adolescents and young children to enhance their knowledge of what is acceptable or unacceptable.
- Adequate training should be provided for professionals and volunteers who work with children to identify and assist children who are being abused and to enable them to teach children to protect themselves from abuse and detect potential child abusers.
- All parents should receive quality education and support, which includes information on appropriate and inappropriate touching, and crucially, how to detect in oneself and one's partner the inclination towards inappropriate touching and what to do about it. In addition, parents need to know how to detect and handle their own children's symptoms which could indicate that sexual abuse has occurred.
- All child-serving institutions, such as schools, should train children in self-awareness and self-protection. Guidelines and regulations need to be in place to screen, train and monitor all volunteers and staff members.
- An environment should be created through the media, in which the above preventive programmes and concepts will be effective by communicating messages to adolescents and adults, as well as children.

Fagan (2009) and Ribner (2014) highlight the fact that pornography has become a social phenomenon and the inundation of sexually explicit images cannot be stopped. When dealing with this social phenomenon, the key is family relationships characterised by affection and attachment as well as personal values. Ribner (2014) goes on to explain how this social phenomenon also implies the role of professionals who now need to assist parents and other individuals involved in the lives of children to adequately prepare them to deal with the influx of sexual images. By following this approach, individuals will be able to prevent problems resulting from exposure to pornographic material.

In addition to the responsibility of individuals when dealing with exposure to pornographic material, the protection of society by a higher authority such as government cannot be overlooked. When effectively protecting children and other vulnerable individuals from the influence of exposure to sexually explicit images, the regulation of pornographic material is inevitable. By effectively regulating pornographic material, leaders become involved in helping to create a protective environment.

Strengths of the study

The research study investigated a less studied topic relating to sexually explicit material, and identified the influences of pornographic material on associated feelings, thoughts and behaviour, specifically in relation to the sexual exploitation of children. Seto et al. (2001) also emphasised this focus and stated that the role of pornography in other kinds of sexually inappropriate behaviour such as child molestation is not adequately addressed.

It is the researcher's belief that the study has made a contribution to the available research information and knowledge on the influence of pornographic material on associated feelings, thoughts and behaviour, especially in the South African context in which limited reliable information is available. By enhancing awareness and knowledge of pornographic material and its influences, the results of this study could help with the successful regulation of sexually explicit material and emphasise the importance of the regulation of pornographic material on the Internet.

A further strength of the study is that it considered the exposure to and influence of pornographic material over a lifespan. In most instances, experimental designs are adopted in research studies on pornographic material, but these designs are not ideal to establish perceptual, attitudinal and behavioural changes. In this regard, Jensen (1995) and Attwood (2005) postulate that narrative accounts (qualitative research), as utilised in the current study, are one of the best sources of information to understand the factors relating to the viewing of sexually explicit images. Generally, experimental studies are incapable of measuring the subtle influences that develop over time, and tend to overlook vital information.

This study identified personal and environmental risk factors that can make an individual more susceptible to the influence of pornographic material and also explored the prevention of sexual exploitation of children from the offender's perspective. In so-doing, the research study provided relevant and functional information on the risk management and prevention of sexual exploitation of children.

The research study included a diverse group of participants from different socioeconomic backgrounds from three major provinces in South Africa. Furthermore, the study explored exposure to both traditional forms of pornography and Internet pornography, which is a developing field of interest owing to the growing number of individuals who are gaining access to the Internet.

In a personal capacity, the main strength of the research study was that during the researcher's preparation for the study and her encounters with the convicted sex offenders, she learnt more about human behaviour and life in general, and gained additional insight into the central research question that she had contemplated for many years.

Limitations of the study

Because of the private nature of pornographic material, the viewing thereof and possible influences remain a complex topic of research. Hence this study was limited to convicted

and imprisoned sex offenders who reported viewing pornographic material and had committed a sexual offence involving a child. These findings cannot therefore be generalised to the general population.

A further limitation of this research study was the voluntary participation of participants. There may have been other suitable candidates who were not identified during the screening process or were unwilling to participate in the research study who could have made valuable contributions to understanding the influence of pornographic material on associated feelings, thoughts and behaviour.

It would have been preferable to gather more participants, but owing to the logistics involved, it took the researcher 12 months to obtain permission and conduct 18 in-depth interviews. The total number of interviews, however, was sufficient for the purpose of this investigation.

The use of only two female participants is also a limitation in itself. However, female sex offenders in comparison to male sex offenders who fitted the research profile for the study were far less. Furthermore, two identified female sex offenders who fitted the research profile did not agree to participate in the research study.

The study relied on self-reported information that the researcher could only compare to the information provided by the psychologist or social worker who was familiar with the background of the participant.

Future research studies

Attwood (2005) argues that because of the narrow focus of research into pornographic material, there are gaps in the knowledge of the use of sexually explicit images. Based on the outcome of the current research study, not all the gaps have been addressed, and it is thus recommended that the influence of pornographic material on associated feelings, thoughts and behaviour in relation to the sexual exploitation of children should be further investigated. Furthermore, the incidents of sexual exploitation of children are alarming, and

ongoing reliable research information is needed to adequately understand and prevent the situation. A possible longitudinal study, investigating the use and influence of pornographic material over time, would be constructive in addressing the identified knowledge gaps.

The embracing of technology has moved pornography into a new era, not only by giving the viewers easy access to sexually explicit images, but also by providing them with more technological enhanced images which intensify the influence. This study therefore underscores the need for future research into pornographic material on the Internet, especially addiction to online pornography and would make a contribution to the understanding of the influence of pornographic material on behaviour. A critical question that needs to be addressed is whether and to what extent, online sexual compulsivity translates into or facilitates potential damaging behaviour offline.

The different types of pornography viewed and their possible relationship with offences need to be investigated further. According to Marshall (1988), rapists and child molesters reported significantly more use of hardcore pornographic materials than nonoffender controls and incest offenders, and they used such material to prepare themselves to commit an offence. The study found that pornographic material was used to motivate behaviour and for grooming purposes. Further exploration of different types of pornography could provide more reliable information for the development of a model for the effective regulation of pornographic material.

Based on the outcome of this research study, it would be beneficial to further explore the overall influence of pornographic material on the family system consisting of different individuals and relationships. A critical factor that needs to be explored through empirical research is how the lives of children in the family system are affected. Examining the impact of Internet pornography from a family-oriented perspective would represent a relatively new shift. It would be interesting to learn how family dynamics (parent-child, sibling-sibling, husband-wife and nuclear-extended family) are specifically affected when one or more family members consume pornography on a regular basis (Manning, 2006).

The body of research that could be used to document the impact of pornography consumption by children and young people is limited, which reflects the obvious legal, ethical and practical restrictions of such research. More intensive and sophisticated investigations of pornography's use, meaning and significance among young people are required (Flood, 2009).

An evaluation of the different sex offender programmes offered in correctional centres throughout South Africa, exploring the contents of the programmes and the relevance of the aspects of treatment, could provide information on the suitability of these programmes for sexual offenders who have committed a crime against a child.

Recommendations

The following recommendations can be made based on the outcome of the research study:

The DCS

- The current DCS database of incarcerated sex offenders contains limited information on the actual offence and key dynamics involved. This makes the identification of offenders for the purpose of treatment and research extremely difficult. There is a need to develop and implement an adequate database containing more relevant information. This could include sub-categorising according to victim specifications – for example, sexual offending against children or adults, who are female (heterosexual), male (homosexual) or related (incest).
- The DCS correctional centres are experiencing a lack of psychological support systems. Psychologists are not always aware of offenders in need of help and only have limited contact with them often in a group setting. This interferes with their ability to provide therapeutic assistance or make proper suggestions for rehabilitation. It also limits the sex offender from benefiting from the available psychological services and rehabilitation programmes.

- Many DCS psychologists or social workers present sex offender programmes in correctional centres. It is recommended that set criteria should be laid down for all sex offender support programmes to ensure that these programmes address the specific needs of sex offenders, such as those who have committed an offence against a child.
- Taking the number of incarcerated sex offenders and the complexity of the crime into consideration, it is recommended that DCS psychologists and social workers dealing with a significant number of sex offenders receive additional training to help them deal with these offenders. This could apply specifically to offenders presenting problems relating to online sexual behaviour such as addiction to pornographic material.
- Strict measures need to be in place to restrict access to electronic devices and other means that might expose sex offenders to pornographic material because these could impede the rehabilitation process.

Incarcerated sex offenders

- The placement of sex offenders in correctional centres is important. Currently, the correctional centres are filled to capacity, which tends to complicate placement. Based on this research, it would seem that certain factors in communal cells such as television programmes and exposure to pornographic material have a direct influence on sex offenders and hinder their rehabilitation process.
- Sex offender programmes aimed at the rehabilitation of incarcerated sex offenders are critical. Although the sex offender programmes seem to help to develop the basic skills of offenders, they do not contribute to the rehabilitation of sex offenders who have committed an offence against a child. Owing to the multifaceted nature of

the crime and susceptibility to external influences such as pornographic material, additional programmes and therapeutic interventions are necessary.

- Incarcerated sex offenders are faced with many questions and challenges relating to their rehabilitation and integration back into society, such as the implications of being registered on the sex offender register and freely available pornographic material, which need to be addressed at a professional level.
- Therapeutic intervention is needed for incarcerated sex offenders who manifest symptoms of addiction to pornographic material.

Reporting of sexual abuse

- More awareness initiatives dealing with the identification and reporting of the sexual abuse of children among community members are required to respond adequately to the sexual exploitation of children. The study found a clear need for an increase in broad-based educational efforts on issues of online sexual exploitation.
- Children should know that they should not be exposed to sexually explicit material and need to report such exposure.
- Provision needs to be made for young or handicapped children who might not have adequate communication skills to report an event relating to sexual abuse.

Regulation of pornographic material

- Owing to the increased adoption of technology and easy access to sexually explicit images on the Internet, it is recommended that continuous efforts should be made to safeguard the Internet and regulate pornographic material online.

- Regulatory authorities and organisations such as the FPB need to be responsive to the rapid changes in technology from a regulatory perspective and be prepared to deal with increased volumes of diverse content.
- Regulatory authorities and organisations such as the FPB need to drive critical thinking among the South African public with regard to classifiable content and set internationally benchmarked standards for the regulation of content.
- The study emphasised the need for the continuous regulation of pornographic material and consideration of different types of pornographic material and their influences in the regulation model.
- Effective scheduling of content on television is essential as this is often the first point of contact with inappropriate sexual information. This includes television advertisements and programmes.
- Increased access to pornographic material among members of South African society requires an increase in awareness of how to effectively deal with exposure to sexually explicit images.

Parents

- Parenting workshops addressing issues relating to sexuality and pornography should be promoted in communities. It is essential for parents to be equipped to talk to their children about sexuality and pornography and appropriately explain the difference.
- Parents need to be encouraged to gain more information about the technological world and the possible dangers it has for their children, such as premature exposure to sexually explicit material.

- Parents need to connect with their children and make them aware of the possible long-term influences of exposure to pornographic material online and irresponsible sexual behaviour online.
- Parents must be informed about and able to install protective software on all technological devices used by children within the household.
- Parents should respond adequately when their children report possible child sexual abuse or when any signs of sex abuse are identified. It is recommended that there should be increased awareness of appropriate reporting channels among parents.
- Parents should adequately protect their children from exposure situations and act responsibly towards the use of pornographic material in the household.
- Information and support programmes are necessary for parents when one partner is viewing pornographic material or is likely to be addicted to Internet pornography.

Schools

- Owing to the easy accessibility of pornographic material online, schools cannot offer effective sex education without addressing sexually explicit material. The influences of exposure to pornographic material need to be addressed appropriately.
- Teachers need to be adequately trained to deal with the sexual exploitation of children and exposure of children to pornographic material. An understanding of sexually explicit material and its impact on human behaviour is essential amongst professionals such as educators to respond in effective ways. The responsiveness of educators and concern of the educational sector are imperative in the response against the sexual exploitation of children.

- It is imperative for schools to have appropriate reporting systems in the school environment in order to encourage the reporting of sexual exploitation among learners. The early identification of sexual exploitation is very important and often reporting sexual exploitation can be encouraged within protected environments such as schools.

Conclusion

In conclusion, although pornography is a topic of considerable public and policy interest, much work on the subject of pornographic material still needs to be done. Based on the research results of this study, it is reasonable to conclude that pornography has an influence on human behaviour in relation to the sexual exploitation of children with this sample of incarcerated individuals. Russell (1988, p. 71) aptly states the following: *“But once there is very strong evidence that harm is being caused – by pornography, for example – surely it is the duty, even of a scientist, to say so. And surely such a scientist should also feel able to say that he or she deplors the harm done. Now this really is freedom of speech!”*

Although there are still limitations, the research findings constitute a significant advancement in knowledge for understanding the influences of pornography. In the light of the growing pornography industry and incidence of child sexual exploitation, further research in this area is crucial to contribute to existing knowledge and adequately inform policy formation, especially with regard to the regulation of pornographic material. It is time for the South African government to reassess its approach and take a firm stance towards the proliferation of pornography, especially on the Internet. This will necessitate the development and implementation of regulations and policies regarding access to the Internet and online sexually explicit material.

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APPENDIX A

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Dear Prospective Participant

My name is Antoinette Basson and I am doing research with Prof Ricky Snyders and Prof Pierre Joubert towards a doctoral degree in the Department of Psychology at the University of South Africa (Unisa). We are inviting you to participate in a study titled **‘The impact and effect of obsessive exposure to pornography with the potential of dysfunctional transference towards the sexual exploitation of children’**.

The aim of the study is to identify the influences of pornographic material on human behaviour with specific focus on the sexual exploitation of children. The study has received written approval from the Research Ethics Committee of the Bureau of Market Research at Unisa and Department of Correctional Services granting me permission to conduct interviews with convicted and imprisoned offenders who have committed a sexual offence involving a child. With the assistance of personnel from the Department of Correctional Services, you have been identified as a potential participant.

If you agree to participate in the research study, you will be expected to participate in an interview conducted by the researcher. It is foreseen that the process will take approximately 2 hours to complete depending on the intensity of the information shared by you during the interview.

Participation in the research study is voluntary and you are under no obligation to agree to participate. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and asked to sign the written consent form attached to this sheet. You are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

Participation in the research study is confidential, your name will not be recorded anywhere and no one will be able to connect you to the information you share during the interview. You will be given a fictitious name and you will be referred to in this way in the data, any publications, or other research reporting methods such as conference proceedings.

The interview will be audio recorded and the recordings as well as any field-notes taken during the interview will be stored by the researcher for a period of 5 years in a locked cupboard for future research or academic purposes.

You will not receive any payment or incentive for participating in this research study.

If you would like to be informed of the final research findings, you may request a copy of the final research report through a psychologist or social worker from the Department of Correctional services using the following email address: bassoa@unisa.ac.za.

Your participation in this research study will contribute extensively to the understanding of the effect of pornography on human behaviour and will contribute to the effective regulation of pornographic material and protection of children.

Thank you for taking time to read this information and for participating in this research study.

Antoinette Basson

LETTER OF CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE

I, _____ (participant name & surname), hereby agree to participate in the research project, **'The impact and effect of obsessive exposure to pornography with the potential of dysfunctional transference towards the sexual exploitation of children'** and being interviewed by Antoinette Basson.

I have read about (or had explained to me) and understood the study as outlined in the information sheet and had sufficient opportunity to ask questions.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may refuse to participate or withdraw at any time.

I understand that my anonymity is guaranteed and that the findings of this study will be anonymously processed into a research report, journal publications and/or conference proceedings. If I wish to study the final report, incorporating my participation, I will be provided a copy of the document on my request.

I hereby agree to the recording of the interview and am prepared to participate in the study.

Participant name & surname	Participant signature
	Date _____
Researcher name & surname	Researcher signature
	Date _____

APPENDIX B

Interview Guide

Introduction

This research study investigates the effect of pornographic material on human behaviour. It is anticipated that the research information generated from this study will contribute to the effective regulation of pornographic material and protection of children.

Written permission has been obtained from the Department of Correctional Services granting the researcher permission to conduct interviews with convicted and imprisoned offenders who have committed a sexual offence involving a child.

The researcher has obtained ethical clearance from the BMR Research Ethics Committee (REC) at Unisa and the Department of Correctional Services, Policy Coordination and Research and is obligated to ethical guidelines. All personal information will be kept confidential and participation in the study is voluntary and anonymous. No names will appear in any research report or information disseminated, based on the outcome of the research study.

Instruction

Please listen to the questions carefully and answer as honestly as possible. Provide as much information as possible. All answers will be voice recorded and I will also make handwritten notes during the interview to assist me with the understanding of the information.

If you need more information please ask. Some of the questions might be of a personal and intimate nature and if you do not want to answer a question you can refuse to do so.

Before we proceed, would you like me to clarify anything or do you have any questions?

Demographic Information

(To be obtained through secondary data and observation)

- Gender
- Age
- Home Language
- Marital Status
- Educational Level
- Previous Occupation
- Sentence (Type of sexual offender)

Theme A: Background Information

- We will start with background information about you. Tell me about your childhood:
 - Family composition (parents, siblings)
 - Friends (social activities)
 - Education (school and other activities)
- Thinking back about your sexual development, would you describe it as being similar to other individuals?
- Were you every sexually abused during your childhood?
 - **If abused**, can you remember how old you were when the abuse took place?
 - How long did the abuse carry on?
 - How did it make you feel?
 - Did you ever tell anyone about the abuse? If yes, what was the response of the person you told?
 - **If not revealed**: Would you like to tell me who abused you? Remember you are under no obligation to answer the question.
 - **If not abused**, do you know of anybody in your household who was sexually abused?

Theme B: Exposure to Pornographic Material

- I want us to talk about pornography. Have you ever viewed pornographic material?
- Can you remember how old you were when you first viewed pornography? Tell me more about this experience.
- How did you feel the first time you viewed pornography?
- Did you continue viewing pornography? If yes, how regularly have you viewed pornography?

- How did you get hold of the pornography?
- What function did the pornography fulfil in your life?
- What types of pornography did you view?
- Have you experienced an increased desire for more peculiar types of pornography?
- Have you ever viewed child pornography?
- Have you ever used drugs and/or alcohol before or during watching pornography?

Theme C: Pornography and Sexual Relationships

- Have you used pornography in an active way with your sexual partner/s?
- Would you say that pornography was central to your sex life?
- Have you ever made home-made pornography or recorded sexual activity?
- Would you say that your heaviest use of pornography was during periods when you were involved or not involved in a sexual relationship with somebody?

Theme D: Perceived Effect on Attitude and Behaviour

Attitude

- Tell me more about your *feelings* when you were viewing pornography. How did it made you feel about?
 - Yourself (dissatisfied, self-conscious, self-blame, powerful/less)
 - Other individuals (in particular women and children)

Behaviour

- Tell me more about your *behaviour* during and after watching pornography.
 - Did you find rape more acceptable?
 - Did you find violence more acceptable?
 - Did you feel more in control while you were watching pornography?
 - Did you ever engage in fantasies related to watching pornography?
 - Did you focus on certain kinds of images?
 - Have you ever seen a person and created sexual scenes with them that were taken directly from pornography you have seen?
 - Have you exposed any of your victims to pornography?
 - In your opinion, did viewing pornography contribute to you committing a crime? If yes, in what way?
 - Overall, how would you describe the impact of pornography in your life?
 - Have you ever spoken to anybody about viewing pornography and how you felt?

Theme E: Protection of Children

- Thinking back, what is your opinion now about viewing pornography and the effect thereof on behaviour?
- What would your advice be to someone who is still involved in such practices?
- Do you think it is necessary to have measures in place to protect children from pornographic material? If yes, what do you think can be done?

Thank you for your participation. Do you have any questions?

APPENDIX C

Mrs A Basson
Researcher
Bureau of Market Research
Youth Research Unit

23 August 2012

Dear Mrs Basson

APPLICATION FOR ETHICAL CLEARANCE: THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (PROJECT: G06A)

The Bureau of Market Research (BMR) within the College of Economic and Management Sciences (CEMS) at the University of South Africa (Unisa) is mandated via its Research Ethics Committee (REC) to ethically clear all research projects commissioned to the BMR.

More specifically, the BMR REC has been delegated powers by CEMS and the Unisa Research Department to:

- ensure that BMR researchers adhere to the BMR Policy on Research Ethics (closely aligned with the CEMS and Unisa Policy on Research Ethics) in any collaborative or individual socioeconomic research on human subjects
- review research proposals and evaluate the ethical aspects of ongoing research within its jurisdiction
- furnish the CEMS REC and Research Directorate with information on all research proposals and projects
- provide guidance to BMR researchers with regard to specific ethical issues.

Against this background, the BMR Research Ethics Committee (REC) has reviewed your research proposal on the impact and effect of obsessive exposure to pornography with the potential of dysfunctional transference towards the sexual exploitation of children and is satisfied that the proposal meets the research ethics requirements. You are granted permission to proceed with the study provided that the research principles as outlined in the BMR Research Ethics Policy are adhered to throughout the entire project.

Regards,



Prof DH Tustin
Executive Research Director
Bureau of Market Research
College of Economic and Management Sciences



APPENDIX D

correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X136, PRETORIA, 0001 Poyntons Building, C/O Church and Schubart Street, PRETORIA
Tel (012) 307 2000, Fax (012) 328-5111

Ms. A Basson
PO Box 31153
Totiusdal
Pretoria
0134

Dear Ms. A Basson

RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN"

It is with pleasure to inform you that your request to conduct research in the Department of Correctional Services on the above topic has been approved.

Your attention is drawn to the following:

- The relevant Regional and Area Commissioners where the research will be conducted will be informed of your proposed research project.
- Your internal guide will be **Psychologist: Boksburg Correctional Centre, Ms. J Prinsloo**. You are requested to contact him at telephone number (011) 898 3775 before the commencement of your research.
- It is your responsibility to make arrangements for your interviewing times.
- Your identity document and this approval letter should be in your possession when visiting.
- You are required to use the terminology used in the White Paper on Corrections in South Africa (February 2005) e.g. offenders not prisoners and Correctional Centres not prisons.
- You are not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during your visits, however the audio recorder is allowed.
- You are required to submit your final report to the Department for approval by the Commissioner of Correctional Services before publication (including presentation at workshops, conferences, seminars, etc) of the report.
- Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the Directorate Research for assistance at telephone number 012-307-2770/2359.

Thank you for your application and interest to conduct research in the Department of Correctional Services.

Yours faithfully

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY CO-ORDINATION & RESEARCH

DATE: 10/12/2012



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: (012) 307-2770

Fax: (012) 328-5111

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE:	04 DECEMBER 2012	FILE NR:	4/7/6/1/91
TO:	AREA COMMISSIONER: DURBAN WESTVILLE	FROM:	RESEARCH DIRECTORATE
SUBJECT:	RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN "		

AREA COMMISSIONER: DURBAN WESTVILLE

1. This is to inform you that the application on the above-mentioned research has been approved.
2. You are therefore requested to grant permission to the following researcher to conduct the said research, **Ms. A Basson, ID Number – 750308 0057 082**. The researcher intends visiting Durban Westville Correctional Centre.
3. Please take note that:
 - 3.1 The researcher is not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during her visits to the Correctional Centre, however the audio recorder is allowed.
 - 3.2 The researcher's internal guide is the **Psychologist: Boksburg Correctional Centre, Ms. J Prinsloo**.
 - 3.3 It is the researcher's responsibility to make arrangements with the Correctional Centre for the visiting times. The researcher has been informed of this arrangement.
 - 3.4 The security measures are still applicable and must be adhered to by the researcher.
4. Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the Directorate Research for assistance at telephone number 012-307-2359/2770.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY CO-ORDINATION & RESEARCH

DATE: 10/12/2012



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: (012) 307-2770

Fax: (012) 328-5111

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE:	04 DECEMBER 2012	FILE NR:	4/7/6/1/91
TO:	AREA COMMISSIONER: BOKSBURG	FROM:	RESEARCH DIRECTORATE
SUBJECT:	RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN"		

AREA COMMISSIONER: BOKSBURG

1. This is to inform you that the application on the above-mentioned research has been approved.
2. You are therefore requested to grant permission to the following researcher to conduct the said research, **Ms. A Basson, ID Number – 750308 0057 082**. The researcher intends visiting Boksburg Correctional Centre.
3. Please take note that:
 - 3.1 The researcher is not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during her visits to the Correctional Centre, however the audio recorder is allowed.
 - 3.2 The researcher's internal guide is the **Psychologist: Boksburg Correctional Centre, Ms. J Prinsloo**.
 - 3.3 It is the researcher's responsibility to make arrangements with the Correctional Centre for the visiting times. The researcher has been informed of this arrangement.
 - 3.4 The security measures are still applicable and must be adhered to by the researcher.
4. Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the Directorate Research for assistance at telephone number 012-307-2359/2770.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY CO-ORDINATION & RESEARCH

DATE: 10/12/2012



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: (012) 307-2770

Fax: (012) 328-5111

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE:	04 DECEMBER 2012	FILE NR:	4/7/6/1/91
TO:	REGIONAL COMMISSIONER: KWAZULU/NATAL	FROM:	RESEARCH DIRECTORATE
SUBJECT:	RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN"		

REGIONAL COMMISSIONER: KWAZULU/NATAL

1. This is to inform you that the application on the above-mentioned research has been approved.
2. You are therefore requested to grant permission to the following researcher to conduct the said research, **Ms. A Basson, ID Number -750308 0057 082**. The researcher intends visiting Durban Westville Correctional Centre.
3. Please take note that:
 - 3.1 The researcher is not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during her visits to the Correctional Centre, however the audio recorder is allowed.
 - 3.2. The researcher's internal guide is the **Psychologist: Boksburg Correctional Centre, Ms. J Prinsloo**.
 - 3.3 It is the researcher's responsibility to make arrangements with the Correctional Centre for the visiting times. The researcher has been informed of this arrangement.
 - 3.4 The security measures are still applicable and must be adhered to by the researcher.
4. Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the Directorate Research for assistance at telephone number 012-307-2359/2770.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY CO-ORDINATION & RESEARCH

DATE: 10/12/2012



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: (012) 307-2770

Fax: (012) 328-5111

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE:	04 DECEMBER 2012	FILE NR:	4/7/6/1/91
TO:	REGIONAL COMMISSIONER: WESTERN CAPE	FROM:	RESEARCH DIRECTORATE
SUBJECT:	RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN"		

REGIONAL COMMISSIONER: WESTERN CAPE

1. This is to inform you that the application on the above-mentioned research has been approved.
2. You are therefore requested to grant permission to the following researcher to conduct the said research, **Ms. A Basson, ID Number – 750308 0057 082**. The researcher intends visiting Pollsmoor Correctional Centre.
3. Please take note that:
 - 3.1 The researcher is not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during her visits to the Correctional Centre, however the audio recorder is allowed.
 - 3.2. The researcher's internal guide is the **Psychologist: Boksburg Correctional Centre, Ms. J Prinsloo**.
 - 3.3 It is the researcher's responsibility to make arrangements with the Correctional Centre for the visiting times. The researcher has been informed of this arrangement.
 - 3.4 The security measures are still applicable and must be adhered to by the researcher.
4. Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the Directorate Research for assistance at telephone number 012-307-2359/2770.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY CO-ORDINATION & RESEARCH

DATE: 04/12/2012



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: (012) 307-2770

Fax: (012) 328-5111

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE:	04 DECEMBER 2012	FILE NR:	4/7/6/1/91
TO:	AREA COMMISSIONER: PRETORIA	FROM:	RESEARCH DIRECTORATE
SUBJECT:	RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN "		

AREA COMMISSIONER: PRETORIA

1. This is to inform you that the application on the above-mentioned research has been approved.
2. You are therefore requested to grant permission to the following researcher to conduct the said research, **Ms. A Basson, ID Number – 750308 0057 082**. The researcher intends visiting Pretoria Central Correctional Centre.
3. Please take note that:
 - 3.1 The researcher is not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during her visits to the Correctional Centre, however the audio recorder is allowed.
 - 3.2 The researcher's internal guide is the **Psychologist: Boksburg Correctional Centre, Ms. J Prinsloo**.
 - 3.3 It is the researcher's responsibility to make arrangements with the Correctional Centre for the visiting times. The researcher has been informed of this arrangement.
 - 3.4 The security measures are still applicable and must be adhered to by the researcher.
4. Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the Directorate Research for assistance at telephone number 012-307-2359/2770.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY CO-ORDINATION & RESEARCH

DATE: 10/12/2012



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: (012) 307-2770

Fax: (012) 328-5111

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE:	04 DECEMBER 2012	FILE NR:	4/7/6/1/91
TO:	REGIONAL COMMISSIONER: GAUTENG	FROM:	RESEARCH DIRECTORATE
SUBJECT:	RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN"		

REGIONAL COMMISSIONER: GAUTENG

1. This is to inform you that the application on the above-mentioned research has been approved.
2. You are therefore requested to grant permission to the following researcher to conduct the said research, **Ms. A Basson, ID Number – 750308 0057 082**. The researcher intends visiting Pretoria Central Correctional Centre, Boksburg Correctional Centre and Johannesburg Correctional Centre.
3. Please take note that:
 - 3.1 The researcher is not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during her visits to the Correctional Centre, however the audio recorder is allowed.
 - 3.2. The researcher's internal guide is the **Psychologist: Boksburg Correctional Centre, Ms. J Prinsloo**.
 - 3.3 It is the researcher's responsibility to make arrangements with the Correctional Centre for the visiting times. The researcher has been informed of this arrangement.
 - 3.4 The security measures are still applicable and must be adhered to by the researcher.
4. Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the Directorate Research for assistance at telephone number 012-307-2359/2770.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY CO-ORDINATION & RESEARCH

DATE: 10/12/2012





correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: (012) 307-2770

Fax: (012) 328-5111

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE:	04 DECEMBER 2012	FILE NR:	4/7/6/1/91
TO:	AREA COMMISSIONER: POLLSMOOR	FROM:	RESEARCH DIRECTORATE
SUBJECT:	RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN "		

AREA COMMISSIONER: POLLSMOOR

1. This is to inform you that the application on the above-mentioned research has been approved.
2. You are therefore requested to grant permission to the following researcher to conduct the said research, **Ms. A Basson, ID Number – 750308 0057 082**. The researcher intends visiting Pollsmoor Correctional Centre.
3. Please take note that:
 - 3.1 The researcher is not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during her visits to the Correctional Centre, however the audio recorder is allowed.
 - 3.2 The researcher's internal guide is the **Psychologist: Boksburg Correctional Centre, Ms. J Prinsloo**.
 - 3.3 It is the researcher's responsibility to make arrangements with the Correctional Centre for the visiting times. The researcher has been informed of this arrangement.
 - 3.4 The security measures are still applicable and must be adhered to by the researcher.
4. Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the Directorate Research for assistance at telephone number 012-307-2359/2770.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY CO-ORDINATION & RESEARCH

DATE: 10/12/2012



correctional services

Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: (012) 307-2770

Fax: (012) 328-5111

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE:	04 DECEMBER 2012	FILE NR:	4/7/6/1/91
TO:	AREA COMMISSIONER: JOHANNESBURG	FROM:	RESEARCH DIRECTORATE
SUBJECT:	RE: APPLICATION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ON: "THE IMPACT AND EFFECT OF OBSESSIVE EXPOSURE TO PORNOGRAPHY WITH THE POTENTIAL OF DYSFUNCTIONAL TRANSFERENCE TOWARDS THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN "		

AREA COMMISSIONER: JOHANNESBURG

1. This is to inform you that the application on the above-mentioned research has been approved.
2. You are therefore requested to grant permission to the following researcher to conduct the said research, **Ms. A Basson, ID Number – 750308 0057 082**. The researcher intends visiting Johannesburg Correctional Centre.
3. Please take note that:
 - 3.1 The researcher is not allowed to use photographic or video equipment during her visits to the Correctional Centre, however the audio recorder is allowed.
 - 3.2 The researcher's internal guide is the **Psychologist: Boksburg Correctional Centre, Ms. J Prinsloo**.
 - 3.3 It is the researcher's responsibility to make arrangements with the Correctional Centre for the visiting times. The researcher has been informed of this arrangement.
 - 3.4 The security measures are still applicable and must be adhered to by the researcher.
4. Should you have any enquiries regarding this process, please contact the Directorate Research for assistance at telephone number 012-307-2359/2770.

Your co-operation is highly appreciated.

ND SIHLEZANA
DC: POLICY CO-ORDINATION & RESEARCH
DATE: 10/12/2012