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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
<p>Pornography, Youth, X-Rated Content Consumption, Sexual Abuse, Pakistan</p>	<p>Google ranked Pakistan among the most pornographic searching content countries in the world. At same time, Pakistanis feel uncomfortable while discussing sex and pornography publicly considering this subject as a taboo. On other hand, there is an increase in cases of rape, child abuse, and sexual harassment in the country indicating an alarming threat. This study explores possible relationship between X-rated content consumption and its relation with sexual abuse cases in particular context. The theoretical framework of social learning theory (Bandura, 1977) &amp; cultivation theory (Gerbner, 1969) was employed. Data for this qualitative study is collected through the interview guide method using instrument of semi-structured interviews. The research population comprises the rape convicts currently under jail term in District Jail of Kasur (n=20 convicts). Thematic analysis of the study reveals that the consumption of X-rated content at an early age stimulated the rape convicts to commit the rape. Other factors involved in committing rape are the socio-economic conditions and psychographics of rape convicts. The study recommends that the PTA should increase and ensure its filters with the strict checks upon the online traffic and trends of the search-on-search engines.</p>
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## INTRODUCTION

There has been a rapid increase in prevalence rates of online sexual abuse as existing research has highlighted the negative impact online sexual abuse can have on victims. However, there is a gap in understanding the long-term impact of online sexual abuse when it occurred in diverse situations (Schmidt, Varese & Bucci, 2023). Unfortunately, Pakistan was among top porn-searching countries in the world. In addition, six of most porn-searching countries were Muslim states. After Pakistan,

Egypt was at number two, Iran at number four, Morocco at number five, Saudi Arabia at number seven, and Turkey was at number eight in the list respectively. Data released by Google depicted that, Pakistan topped the list of most porn-searching countries and led the way in porn searches for animals like cats, dogs, donkeys, pigs, and snakes (Tribune, 2015). Contrary to this, living in the Pakistani society where most people often feel uncomfortable when discussing the pornography with anyone. It is high time that pornographic content addiction should be considered as a disease and not as a taboo about which we cannot speak publicly (Shahabbudin, 2020). Similarly, insights of pornography have changed noticeably over time. The unearthing at Pompeii in the 18th century was an example of the changing perception of pornography. When the archeological excavations started, small artifacts of a sexual nature were found, and dismissed by diggers as oddity (Kendrick, 1987). Still, some theories were presented to elaborate on increasing amount of sexual content that was being revealed.

Eventually, the research provided evidence that pornographic material was a common public and private ornamentation in Pompeii. One of the reasons for this was the worship of Priapus, whose key symbol was erect or semi-erect penis. This icon was used in everything from jewels to frescos (Lane III, 2000). In the view of the above context, the cases of child abuse were rising in Pakistan with each passing day and both girls and boys were equally vulnerable to such horrendous attacks. Mostly child abuse cases went unreported due to involvement of influential people in this heinous crime. These influential people intervened as a third party to resolve issue between the victim party and convicted party. The data released by a non-profit organization revealed that 2960 cases of sexual abuse were reported in media in 2020. Out of 2960 reported cases, 65% belonged to rural areas while 35% of cases were reported from urban areas. Practice of sexual abuse against boys is more common than people believe (ANI, 2021). Still, it seemed fairly easy to have access to pornographic content in Pakistan, including child pornography. Some roadside mobile shops sold sexually illicit and questionable material in different ways i.e., memory cards, WhatsApp links, etc. The consumers of such content whether on mobile phones, tabs, computers, or laptops, definitely wanted to practice what they saw.

It uncovered that why there was a surge in sexual assault cases committed by rape convicts (Ebad Ahmed, 2020). On the other hand, as Internet gained increasing prominence in the lives of young people, researchers began examining the influence that the Internet environment might be having on child and adolescent development of the particular interest was exposure to sexual material. The Internet provides a platform to youth consumers to get easy interact and indulge in pornographic content (UCLA, 2003). The porn industry had been developing at fast pace due to a global increase in Internet convenience and technological progress, particularly in streaming media that allowed users to continuously watch content, usually video, without need to download it. This technological advancement has made access of every internet user to sexually illicit content easier (Wilkinson, 2017). Also, it was no more surprising that due to easy availability of explicit material on internet, it had become difficult to avoid exposure to pornographic content intentionally or unintentionally. The availability of X-rated content on internet was just a single click away, even one could become familiar with pornographic content while using the internet i.e., in the form of ads displayed during

browsing (Zhang & Jemmott, 2015). Pornography has long history but new technology led it to new heights undoubtedly.

It was being offered in every form with the unlimited sexual diversity where there was internet accessibility. The porn industry was getting modern day by day and it tried to keep its consumers updated with every new arrival. At times, the video form of pornographic content was reported as most sexually arousing and was single click away (Mattebo & Larsson 2014). However, Pakistan has one of the largest cohorts of young people with approximately 25 million young people aged 15 to 24 years having more serious concerns about the addiction of pornographic content addiction. On other hand, Pakistan has also been ranked among top positions of most porn-searching content in the world. It indicated that youth was now more vulnerable to X-rated content (Government of Pakistan, 2001). In the view of above context, data revealed that Pakistan was among the 10 worst countries when it came to rape cases. Approximately 14850 kidnapping cases involving women, children, and girls were reported in Punjab during the last year. Around 10000 rape cases had been reported in Punjab during last three and a half years, from Jan 2014 to June 2017. Some 2000 women were kidnapped and 80% of them were raped last year, while 15% of these were killed. Moreover, it disclosed that 2669 women in Punjab were raped in 2014, 2509 in 2015, 2938 in 2016, and 1365 in 2017 (Shah, 2020).

### Objectives & Questions

The increasing cases of rape, child abuse, frustration, and anxiety in Pakistan, indicate a threatening alert to the society. Unfortunately, nobody wants to talk about this matter publicly. People watch pornographic content, but they feel ashamed to have this topic under discussion. Even students in universities are discouraged from conducting research studies on pornography-related topics. On the other hand, easy access to pornographic content is also another challenging factor. Therefore, the study intends to examine relationship between X-rated content consumption and its consumers' tendency to be involved in the sexual abuse in Pakistan (Rafiq, Kamran & Zaki, 2022). The main objectives include:

1. To analyze the consumption patterns of X-rated content amid individuals convicted of rape.
2. To explore the reasons provided by rape convicts for committing rape in assorted situations.
3. To examine the demographical factors associated with the individuals convicted of the rape.
4. RQ1: What are the X-rated leading contents of consumption patterns of the rape convicts?
5. RQ2: What are the main reasons that these rape convicts provide for committing the rape?
6. RQ3: What are the demographical factors of rape offenders that lead to committing rape?
7. RQ4: Whether the rape convicts have been acknowledged as the actual victim of the rape?

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Shahabbudin (2020) examined that after periods of helping to define and explicate the internet, pornographic addiction had always been on the point of being considered as a taboo in Pakistan, pushed out of public eye and isolated into the dark, seedy corners of our personal domains. Living in Pakistani society where most people often felt uncomfortable when discussing pornography with anyone. However, the results showed that rapists committed rape because of pornography and porn videos. The pornographic content influenced them and led them to commit the sexual assault. The

sexual content stimulated its viewers and ignited them to commit rape. It enabled the consumers to jump into the practically world rather than to be in imaginary world (Mubin & Muhammad, 2020). Similarly, a study explored that pornographic content consumers learned aggressive and sexual behaviors. This explicit content sexually provoked them and creates the immense sexual arousal. The consumers tried to express sexual feeling and want someone either consensually/non-consensually to do the same acts. The writer emphasized on how the pornographic content cultivated its viewers and compelled them to perform sexual assaults by any means. The sexually explicit material really created sexual arousal (Bridges, 2019). Nathan (2007) explored that Internet provided space for discussion and depiction of unusual and bizarre sexual interests and pornographic picture libraries, live strip and sex shows.

There was much concern over increasing accessibility of pornographic content assumed that young people may develop unrealistic ideas about and or undesirable patterns of sexual behavior from exposure of pornography. Meanwhile, the Internet and other new media advancements such as the digital cameras and cell phones had made pornographic content more reachable to the younger people than ever before. Craving for pornographic content had been the primary driver for the success of the Internet. In the late 1990s, it was projected that the online pornography industry was worth more than \$1 billion and that half of all spending upon the Internet was related to sexual activities (Griffiths, 2000). Thus, it could be observed from the above studies that the pornographic content was affecting not only Pakistani youth but youth from the worldwide. It was the need of an hour to discuss such topics which were considered as taboo in our society. According to the recent reports, Pakistan had been amongst the top list of most searching pornographic content. Thus, the consumption of X-rated content was one of the reasons of increasing rape cases in Pakistan. Theory provides the foundations to think critically and to understand the things in the better way. In this study, the researcher selected “social learning theory” and “cultivation theory” which seemed more suitable to this study.

Social learning theory asserts that people use the stimuli around them to learn about the world. The mass media images teach about the world ahead of the personal approach and create opportunity of contributing to an understanding of social interface patterns. Furthermore, it explains that the information contained in the pornographic films teaches about nature of sexual relations between people as well as illustrating the procedure of intercourse. The sexually explicit material illustrates how men and women should treat each other before, during, and after sex. In this connection, if the portrayed relationships engage aggressive or violent behavior, then those morals could be adopted by the consumer (Check & Malamuth, 1983). The Cultivation Theory was proposed by the George Gerbner (1969), which states that high frequency viewers of television are more prone to media messages and the belief that they are real and valid. It is one of the foundation theories of media effects. The theory explains that, people who watch the television regularly are more likely to be influenced by the messages from the television world. This influence goes to such an extent that their world views and perceptions start reflecting what they repeatedly watch on the television. Therefore, television is considered to contribute independently to the way people perceive social reality (McQuail, 2010).

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The qualitative study was conducted through a semi-structured interview research method, which was used to determine the subjects' perceptions. The researcher used the interview guide to collect data. The semi-structured questionnaire was designed as a tool in Urdu language, later on after data collection; it was transcribed into English along with the semi-structured questionnaire. The population of the study was rape convicts from District Jail Kaur, Punjab. The 90 rape convicts, who were under jail term in District Jail Kasur. Out of 90 rape convicts 20 were selected for the semi-structured interviews. Thus, different themes were developed so as to analyze themes and extract desired outcomes.

Table 1 Demographics of Rape Convicts (n=20)

R-Convicts	Age	Marital Status	Locality	Literacy	Job Status	Victims
1	14	Unmarried	Rural	5th grade	Bike Mechanic	7 years girl
2	13	Unmarried	Rural	8th grade	Unemployed	12 years boy
3	22	Unmarried	Rural	5th grade	Farming	7 years girl
4	80	Married	Rural	Illiterate	Farming	18-year girl
5	40	Married	Rural	Illiterate	Daily wager	14 years boy
6	19	Unmarried	Rural	Illiterate	Milk Shop	9 years girl
7	60	Married	Urban	Illiterate	Daily wager	14 years girl
8	60	Married	Rural	Illiterate	Daily wager	16 years boy
9	40	Married	Rural	Illiterate	Shopkeeper	14 years boy
10	32	Married	Rural	5th grade	Farming	45 years woman
11	61	Married	Rural	Illiterate	Daily wager	22 years girl
12	30	Married	Urban	Illiterate	Horse dancer	14 years boy
13	22	Unmarried	Rural	Illiterate	Daily wager	32 years girl
14	20	Unmarried	Rural	Illiterate	Kiln Laborer	6 years girl
15	18	Unmarried	Rural	8th grade	Saloon boy	12 years boy
16	26	Unmarried	Rural	Illiterate	Kiln Laborer	10 years girl
17	23	Unmarried	Urban	Illiterate	Daily wager	6 years boy
18	30	Unmarried	Rural	Illiterate	Driver	10, 11-year girls
19	55	Married	Rural	Illiterate	Farming	10 years girl
20	23	Unmarried	Urban	F.A	Mobile shop	20 years girl

### Codes & Themes

The data was analyzed with help of thematic analysis. Thematic Analysis was adopted where the concern was to obtain something from human views, thinking and knowledge on specific situation by conducting interviews and survey responses (Caulfield, 2019). Data was analyzed with the help of thematic analysis. In which two major categories were devised which addressed codes of X-rated content consumption and why rapist committed rape? Through these codes, various themes were designed to elaborate the data. In this connection, this table contained the demographical profile of the rape convicts along with codes of X-rated diverse content consumption and why the rapists committed the rape.

### Code 1: X-rated Content Consumption



### **Theme 1: Exposure of Pornographic Content in Early Age**

Convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 9, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17, and Convict 20 claimed during interview to watch pornographic content an early age. The rape convicts in their semi-structured interviews responded accordingly. Convict 1: "I watched pornographic content for the first time at age of ten in a bike workshop. It was a short clip of 10 minutes". Convict 2: "I watched pornographic content at the age of eleven for the first time in my school on a friend's mobile. It was a short clip in which two opposite genders were having sexual intercourse". Convict 9: "I watched sexually illicit material seven years back, at the age of thirty-three for first time. My elder brother had a CDZ shop. The first interaction with porn movies was in the form of pictures. I saw some nude pictures on the CDZ". Convict 13: "I watched pornographic content at the age of 16 for first time in my life. I watched a porn movie on my friend's mobile". Convict 14: "I watched pornographic content for the first time in an internet café with my friend. I was only 15 when I watched. It was a complete movie of 30 minutes".

Convict 15: "I watched pornographic content two years ago at a saloon for the first time. I was only 16 years old when I watched. It was the clip of the few minutes duration". Convict 17: "I watched pornographic content at the age of 16 on a friend's mobile for the first time". Convict 20: "I watched pornographic content in 2017 for first time. I was 17 years when I watched for first time. It was a clip of 10 minutes. I watched a porn movie for first on my mobile phone". It was observed from the above responses that most of rape convicts watched pornographic content at an early age. There were different circumstances for every rape convict when they consumed X-rated content. Convict 1 and Convict 2 watched pornography at a very young age i.e., 10 and 11 years respectively. In this linking, at this age, the brain works so actively and it works as a best receptor in the diverse circumstances. Similarly, the rest of the rape convicts also consumed pornography material at early age i.e., 15, 16 and 17 years. In this connection, convict 9 is the only respondent who consumed X-rated content at the age of 33.

### **Theme 2: Pornographic Content Consumption Partner**

It deals with the question that whether rape convicts watched pornographic content for the first time lonely or with friends. All the rape convicts were asked about their porn consumption partners and they shared their experiences. Therefore, convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 7, Convict 9, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17, and Convict 20 responded accordingly about their consumption partners. Convict 1: "Yes, I watched pornographic content with my friend, named Azeem who was our tenant". Convict 2: "Yes, I watched a porn movie with my friends for first time". Convict 7: "No, I watched lonely for the first time". Convict 9: "No I saw the pictures alone and then watched porn movies with friends many times". Convict 13: "Yes, I watched with my friend for first time but later on I started watching lonely". Convict 14: "I watched with my friend for first time but later on I used to watch lonely".

Convict 15: "Yes, I watched with friends". Convict 17: "I watched pornographic content with my friend and later on I started watching lonely". Convict 20: "Yes, I watched a porn movie with my friends for first time". The above responses showed that most of respondents watched pornographic content with their friends when they watched porn for first time. They had consumption partners

when they had first exposure. Convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17, and Convict 20 claimed to watch pornographic content with their friends for the first time. Convict 7 and Convict 9 consumed the X-rated content without their consumption partners. Therefore, the respondents, who consumed pornographic content lonely for first time, started watching with their consumption partners later.

### Theme 3: Feelings after First Watch

It elaborated on whether there were feelings of pleasure or they felt bad and disgusting. Convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 7, Convict 9, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17, and Convict 20 responded to their feelings after first exposure to pornographic content. Convict 1: "It was not that kind of good feeling, I felt disgusting and uncomfortable after watching the pornographic content". Convict 2: "I felt pleasure after watching porn clip and it was something new & astonishing to me". Convict 7: "Frankly, I felt bad when I watched for first time. It was disgusting to have oral sex and I felt really uncomfortable. Even I found it illegitimate as it was not according to "Shariah". Convict 9: "It was something new to me and I felt weird after seeing the content". Convict 13: "I felt pleasure after seeing the porn content. It was something new as I saw the nude girl for the first time in my life". Convict 14: "I felt bad when I saw nudity but it was really new & exciting. With passage of time, it developed my interest".

Convict 15: "I really felt bad and disgusting after seeing pornographic content". Convict 17: "It was something new to me and I really enjoyed it. It made me excited". Convict 20: "Honestly speaking, I felt bad but later on my interest developed and I wished to have a girlfriend, who could be willing to do everything I wanted". Most of rape convicts found pornographic content disgusting & weird. It made them uncomfortable after first watch. Mostly respondents had bad feelings after watching the X-rated content for the first time. Convict 2, Convict 13, and Convict 17 had good feelings after first watch and they enjoyed it. In this connection, convict 7 had an exceptional case, which had bad feelings after first watch and particularly mentioned that He hated the X-rated content, especially the oral sex. In this drive, further, he said that this act was illegitimate, prohibited and not according to Islamic "Shariah".

### Theme 4: Consumption Frequency of Pornographic Content

It disclosed that how many times in a month they used to consume the X-rated content. The Convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 7, Convict 9, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17 and Convict 20 responded on their consumption of X-rated content in a month. Convict 1: "I used to watch the porn movies at least four to five times a week but for the last seven months I have not seen due to the imprisonment". Convict 2: "I used to watch nude images and porn clips on mobile at least at least four to five times a week before imprisonment". Convict 7: "I only watched back in 2003 and after that I never watched any kind of sexually illicit content". Convict 9: "Whenever, I get the chance. I used to watch five to six times a week". Convict 13: "I used to watch three to four times a week at least before imprisonment". Convict 14: "After first watch, it made me more curious and I started watching content through different means i.e., on the friends' mobiles and CDZ. I also bought my android phone and learned it how to operate. Thus, I used to watch at least four to five times a week before imprisonment".

Convict 15: "I used to watch two to three times a week. I had an android mobile and I searched different porn websites". Convict 17: "I used to watch pornographic content four to five times in a week before imprisonment". Convict 20: "I used to watch pornographic content at least five to six times a week before imprisonment". The responses showed that most of the rape convicts used to watch X-rated content three to four times a week. The Convict 7 was the only respondent who consumed the pornographic content just for once in his life. The Convict 9 used to watch whenever he got the chance; usually he used to watch five to six times a week. It was observed that Convict 9 and Convict 20 used to consume the pornographic content at least five to six times a week. In this regard, usually, respondent had the consumption frequency of X-rated content five to six times a week, which depicted that their accumulative frequency consumption was twenty to twenty-five times a month.

### **Theme 5: Temptation for watching Pornography**

This enlightened that how they got to know to about porn images, clips and movies. Whether they found it by their own or friends' circle? The Convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 7, Convict 9, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17 and Convict 20 expressed their views on temptation factors of consuming of X-rated content. Convict 1: "My friend Azeem incited to watch pornographic content". Convict 2: "My school friends incited me to watch content". Convict 7: "I was unfamiliar with such type of content but one day I bought a new mobile and my friends were with me. They asked to mobile dealer to feed sexual content in my mobile. It was a clip in which "Gora" people were doing sexual intercourse with each other". Convict 9: "It was a kind of curiosity which urged me to watch these CDZ. Once my brother came to home late at night and he was holding some CDZ. I saw him hiding CDZ and next day he forgot to bring those CDZ with him. He later on asked me to bring CDZ which were packed.

I was curious to see the CDZ and I wanted to dig out what was something special in these CDZ. So, once day I got the opportunity when my brother was not in shop and I uncovered the CDZ and saw nude images printed on disks". Convict 13: "My friend incited me to watch pornographic content". Convict 14: "My friend took me to an internet café and he asked me that he would surprise me by showing something new". Convict 15: "My friends incited me to watch the porn movie". Convict 17: "My friend incited me to watch nude content". Convict 20: "My friends tempted me to watch the pornographic content". It was observed from above response that rape convicts were incited by their friends to watch pornographic content. The temptation for consuming X-rated was created by their peer circle. All respondents except Convict 9 known that they were tempted by close friend. Convict 9 shared his personal experience by revealing the element of curiosity which led him to watch X-rated content.

### **Theme 6: Self-pleasure after Consuming Pornographic Content**

It explored that what kind of activities rape convicts used to do after consuming the pornographic content for their self-pleasure? The Convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 7, Convict 9, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17 and Convict 20 responded accordingly by disclosing their activities after watching X-rated content. Convict 1: "I used to find a partner of my age who could be willing to perform sex with me". Convict 2: "Honestly speaking, I used to find somebody who could do sex with me, sometimes, a minor boy or a girl. I had sex with many of my age fellows before imprisonment".



Convict 7: "I had my wife at that time. Whenever I had sexual desire, she was available. So, for self-pleasure, my wife was enough for me". Convict 9: "I have my wife. Whenever I feel sexually aroused, I call my partner for the sexual intercourse". Convict 13: "I often do masturbation for self-pleasure. Though I am unmarried, so masturbation helps me out whenever I feel sexually aroused". Therefore, convict 14: "I do masturbation for the self-pleasure when my sexual desires are at its peak after watching porn content".

Convict 15: "I usually do masturbation for self-pleasure after watching pornographic content. This sexually illicit content triggered your sexual arousal and sometimes it is very difficult to get over the sexual desires". Convict 17: "I do masturbation for self-pleasure as I don't have sexual partner to express my sexual desire". Convict 20: "I do masturbation for the self-pleasure but sometimes it becomes difficult to get over the emotions. After consuming porn movies, I used to visit Bhaati gate (Brothels) for having sexual intercourse". Respondents revealed that after consuming pornographic content they used to express their sexual emotions at any cost. Most of the rape convicts used to do masturbation after consuming X-rated content except a few ones. The ones who did masturbation after watching pornographic content were mostly unmarried. Convict 1 and Convict 2 claimed that they used to find sexual partner sexual intercourse. Similarly, rape convicts, who were married they had wives for expressing sexual emotions after viewing pornographic content. Convict 20 revealed that along with onanism, he used to visit red-light areas of Lahore for self-pleasure after consuming X-rated content.

### **Code 2: Why Committed Rape?**

The below following themes were formulated to observe why rape the convicts committed rape?

#### **Theme 7: Psychological and Physical Urge**

It threw light on the motives of rape i.e., when, how, and why rape convicts committed rape. It reveals some facts about committing rape as rape convicts have shared their personal experiences. Convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 7, Convict 9, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17 and Convict 20 responded accordingly by disclosing facts about their psychological and physical urge to commit rape. Convict 1: "I committed rape after seeing nudity and some strange feelings developed in me. It was like one or two years ago when I did sexual intercourse with a friend. The early exposure to pornography is one of reasons to commit rape. I was spending a normal life but my friend tempted me to watch the porn movie and it affected me badly. The frequent consumption of pornographic content incited my feelings at early age and I couldn't control myself". Convict 2: "I raped a minor boy for first time at age of 12. The early exposure of pornography at very young age stimulated me to commit rape". Convict 7: "It is a natural instinct that man cannot live without fulfilling his sexual desire. After two years of my partner's death, I was in physical relationship with a woman, who lived in my neighbor.

We were in illegitimate relationship for last 10 years. We had sex more than hundred times in 10 years. One day she was not home and we were supposed to meet the same day. I waited for her but she could not come. I found her daughter alone, who was only 14 years. I forcefully started her sexual assault. I felt so lonely and frustrated after my wife's death. It was really difficult to get over your sexual desires". Convict 9: "My marital life was disturbed for last nine months as my wife was at her

parents' home. She has filed petition for divorce (Khulah). I was very much frustrated and concerned about my marital life. This disturbance triggered my sexual arousal I don't have someone to release my stress. I could not control my sexual desire and my frustration level was at its peak". Convict 13: "It happened due to my anger and revenge. I also had sexual frustration so I could not control myself and committed rape". Convict 14: "I raped a six-year-old minor girl. His father had to return my 1000 rupees but he didn't return. I asked him many times but he refused. His father was not giving my 1000 rupees, I raped his daughter His father not giving my 1000 rupees, so I raped his daughter". Convict 15: "Approximately, eight months ago, my barber's son who was only 12 years, joined me to learn the saloon work.

With the passage of time, my (barber) boss's son was very close to me. It was a kind frustration that incited me to rape a minor boy. I could not control my sexual desires". Convict 17: "I raped a minor boy who was six years old. I was mentally upset. I was totally frustrated and over stressed. I raped him to release my mental stress and frustration". Convict 20: "Honestly speaking, the exposure to pornographic content at early age is the first reason of committing rape. My first female teacher, whom I had physical relations incited me to go for sex. With the passage of time, my sexual arousal was at its peak and I was unable to get over my sexual desires and emotions." It was observed from the responses of rape convicts that early exposure to pornographic content stimulated most of the respondents to commit rape. The frequent consumption of X-rated content at early age ignited their psychological and physical urge. This urge stimulated them and they could not control their sexual emotions. On the other hand, it was also observed that along with pornographic content, some other factors like unavailability of sexual partners, personal clashes and revenge also played their role in committing rape. These factors instigated their sexual frustration and they could not keep control over their sexual desires.

### **Theme 8: Following the Pornographic Patterns**

It disclosed whether rape convicts followed the sex positions and patterns used in porn movies. The Convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 7, Convict 9, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17, Convict 20 responded accordingly by revealing facts about following pornographic patterns. Convict 1: "I used to copy positions with my partners which I consumed through porn movies". Convict 2: "Yes, it was something new to me and I used to copy all positions as much as I could. Might be it was because of my early age that this kind of stuff incited me too much". Convict 7: "No, I earlier told whatever "Gora" people do in movies is illegitimate in our "Shariah". Convict 9: "No, I never tried to follow sexual patterns of movies". Convict 13: "Yes, although I had no sexual partner but pornographic content always incited me and I wished to copy the same actions when I would get a chance to do sex". Convict 14: "Yes, I used to have someone to perform sex in the different positions as I watched in the porn movies".

Convict 15: "No, I never tried these positions, because one must have sexual partner to do these things". Convict 17: "Yes, after watching pornographic content I used to think about the scenes. It was a kind of fantasy that whether it was possible in real life or not". Convict 20: "Yes, I used to copy the same positions and almost I tried every position with my girlfriends". The responses revealed that those rape convicts who used to watch X-rated content; they tried to follow the sexual positions as shown in the porn movies. After watching pornographic content, those rape convicts i.e. Convict

13 and Convict 17 who did not have the sexual partner partners they usually had an imagination of copying these positions. On the other hand, Convict 7, Convict 9 and Convict 15 denied of following the sexual positions shown in porn movies. Rest of the convicts claimed to copy sexual patterns as watched in porn movies.

### **Theme 9: Pornography or Some other Factors involved in Committing Rape**

It explored whether X-rated content consumption was purely involved in committing rape or other factors i.e., socio-economic conditions, frustration, no sexual partner, psychological urge, revenge etc. also played role. For this purpose, all the rape convicts had been taken to observe the factors involved in committing rape. Convict 1: "Yes, pornography is only reason which incited me towards sexual offence". Convict 2: "Yes, pornographic content stimulated me to commit the rape". Convict 3: "It all happened since of her father. He instigated me and sowed anger with his lame excuses. So, for taking revenge, I raped his daughter." Convict 4: "After death of my wife, I had nobody to fulfill my sexual desire. I was so much frustrated after death. The loneliness and frustration led me towards committing rape". Convict 5: "It was result of our personal clashes and compelled me along with my nephews to commit rape". Convict 6: "I don't know what ensued to me. I lost control over my nerves. I was unable to decide what was right and what was wrong. I was upset and my sexual arousal was at its peak. Might be I was looking for a partner to fulfill sexual desire. I found nobody except her at that time". Convict 7: "I felt so lonely and frustrated after my wife's death. It was difficult to get over your sexual desires.

It all happened because of frustration and sexual arousal. I even could not wait for her mother, whom I had physical relationships. Frustration and sexual arousal stimulated me to commit rape". Convict 8: "It was all of sudden and I am unable to think why it happened. It was a matter of few hundred rupees and I raped young guy". Convict 9: "I could not control my sexual desire and my frustration level was at its peak. The stress and frustration triggered my sexual arousal and led me to commit rape". Convict 10: "I had an extra marital affair. It was a two-sided love but she betrayed me". Convict 11: "I just took revenge of my family. Her family father and brothers tortured my family and they were occupied on our land too. It was the anger and revenge that led me to commit rape". Convict 12: "I committed rape as of mental stress and frustration. It was all because of my empty pocket". Convict 13: "It happened due to my anger and revenge. I had sexual frustration so I could not control myself and committed rape". Convict 14: "Yes, although, it was a personal conflict but content aroused me to commit rape. His father was not giving my 1000 rupees, so I raped his daughter". Convict 15: "It was a kind foiling that incited me to rape a minor boy. I could not control my sexual desires". Convict 16: "They had done wrong to me and accused me of stealing their 1500 rupees which I never did.

I raped their daughter for self-satisfaction and whatever they had done to me. In fact, it really gratified me". Convict 17: "I raped him to release my mental stress and frustration". Convict 18: "I don't know why I did it. But this act gratifies me and I feel good after having sex with minor girls and boys". Convict 19: "Satan instigated me to commit rape. It incited me for this act and I lost control over myself". Convict 20: "Honestly speaking, exposure to pornographic content at early age is the first reason of committing rape. Secondly, my first female teacher, whom I had physical relations incited me to do sex. With passage of time, my sexual arousal was at its peak I was unable

to get over my sexual desires and emotions. My frustration level was increasing day by day and I committed rape". It was observed from the above responses that along with consumption of X-rated content there were several factors involve in committing rape. In most of the cases, pornographic content stimulated the convicts to commit rape. Convict 1, Convict 2, Convict 9, Convict 13, Convict 14, Convict 15, Convict 17 and Convict 20 claimed that pornographic content consumption caused them to commit rape. In the other factors, illiteracy, personal clashes, revenge, no sexual partner, disturbed marital life and unemployment were taken to create sexual frustration which led to them to commit rape.

### **Theme 10: Rape Convicts as Rape Victims**

On the other hand, it is also important to know whether rape convicts have been victims of rape in childhood or not. It unfolds facts about rape convicts as rape victims. All the respondents were asked in semi-structured interviews that have they been rape victim/sexually beaten in their childhood or not? All rape convicts answered bluntly and denied that they had never been sexually assaulted in their childhood.

## **DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

This study was conducted to investigate the relationship between X-rated content consumption and sexual abuse cases in Pakistan. The objective was to find out whether the consumption of X-rated content led to rape crime. The study addressed the first research question, "RQ1: What are the X-rated content consumption patterns of rape convicts who have committed rape?" in following way. It was observed that a strong bonding was found between the rape convicts and their X-rated content consumption before committing rape. Most of the rape convicts, who were young boys and adults, had exposure to pornographic content at a very early age. Early exposure to X-rated content had a relationship with the rape convicts, considering the young brain is more receptive to adopting new thought patterns as compared to the old ones. It played a significant role in their lives as they could not control their sexual desires and emotions (Rafiq, Kamran & Afzal, 2023). Thus, this pornographic content affected their normal lives by changing their thought pattern and behaviors. The X-rated content incited their sexual desires and they lost control over it. Most rape convicts admitted to this bitter truth that early exposure to pornographic content led them to a dreadful chapter of life.

They confessed their personal experiences as they were unable to control their sexual desires. They used to copy the sexual patterns and positions as shown in the porn movies. It clearly stated that they were cultivated through the pornographic content. They masturbated, raped, and visited red-light areas for self-pleasure after frequent consumption of X-rated content. So, a strong connection between the consumption of the X-rated content and rape convicts had been explored. It was the pornographic content that led them to commit rape and triggered their sexual frustration (Rafiq, Kamran & Zaki, 2022). The study addressed the second research question, "RQ2: What are the reasons these rape convicts provide for committing rape?" in the following way. It was examined and supported by a literature review, in the study that heavy viewers of pornographic content were more stimulated to commit rape as compared to light the viewers or those who never consumed pornographic content. Rape convicts who used to consume X-rated content were asked how many times they used to watch the pornographic content in a month, most convicts admitted that their

exposure was fifteen to twenty times in a month and few of them claimed to watch four to five times in a week. Rape convicts claimed that the frequent consumption of X-rated content was a driving force to committing rape.

The sexually illicit content consumption ignited their sexual emotions and led them to commit rape. Those rape convicts who consumed pornographic content frequently at an early age were found more indulged in committing rape. One of convicts confessed that he used to find sexual partners of his age to have sexual contact. While both light and heavy viewers were involved in committing rape it was explored that heavy viewers were more stimulated to commit rape as compared to light viewers. The study addressed third research question, "RQ3: What are demographical factors of rape convicts that lead to commit rape?" in following way. Study explored that apart from X-rated content, some other factors were also involved in committing rape. These factors included illiteracy, marital status, unemployment, etc. Some physical and psychological factors were also examined in the study. Most of the rape convicts were found illiterate or had a basic mere primary education. A few of them attended school and college. On other hand, most convicts unmarried. Those who were married had extramarital affairs or disturbed marital life. One of convict's wives had filed a petition for "Khula" as well. It was also observed that those convicts whose wives were dead claimed not to have sexual partners.

According to them, it was very difficult to live without expressing sexual desires. The element of unemployment equally played an important role in creating the stress and sexual frustration. Most convicts were found unemployed. They were daily wagers, bike mechanics, and Kilen workers. Their empty pockets resulted creating frustration and they released their stress by committing rape. While talking about the physical and psychological urge, it was examined that convicts committed rape because of their clashes and revenge. They wanted to gratify their emotions and self-respect so they committed rape. They used to do sexual violence as one of the convicts confessed that he enjoyed the moaning of minor children during rape. The sexual frustration was also linked with physical urge. It stimulated their physical sexual urge and led them to commit rape. The study addressed the fourth research question, "RQ4: Whether the rape convicts have been the victim of rape?" in the following way. All the convicts bluntly participating revealed that they had never been rape victims in their childhood. It explored that to be a rape convict could not be necessarily a rape victim. It was considered somehow that rape victims became rape convicts later in their life but it was not justifiable.

### **Recommendations**

Government authorities like PTA (Pakistan Telecommunication Authority) should play their role. They must observe online traffic and trends of search-on-search engines. Moreover, banning X-rated content can be the best solution. In this regard, PTA must address the issues of VPN and private modes. PTA must establish a dedicated cell to monitor the dark web mafia and malicious activities carried "off the net."

Illiteracy is noted as a major cause of the crime. Moreover, society's ignorance, backwardness, and immoral practices like; abuse led individuals to commit such vicious activities. Besides, there are traces found during research that poverty and unemployment also incline people to involve in committing rape. Also, it is worth noting that the societal structure may also lead to committing



such crimes. For instance, envy and revenge are the most prominent factors that also make people rape children of rivals. It is recommended to alleviate such evils through the extensive prevalence of education among deprived societies (Afzal, Rafiq & Kanwal, 2023; Rafiq, Kamran & Afzal, 2024).

Secondly, being unmarried, single, or divorced are the main factors that urge people under research to commit sexual abuse with their children and/or the opposite sex. So, it is another imminent cause to note. It is worth considering that when people do not have a sex partner, they will be more urged to commit sexual abuses. It is a thing to be noted here that parental check is need of the hour. NGOs, government, and broadcasting institutions can play important role in inducing awareness among parents to keep an eye on minors and adults. The feeling of liability will limit people from obeying social values. Surveillance of children can save them even at eleventh hour. So, parental check is strongly suggested.

### Ethical Considerations

The obtained data of the rape convicts was kept confidential. This study was not paid, for but purely for academic purposes. Permission for conducting interviews of rape convicts was taken from the Prison Department, Punjab. Names of convicts have been kept confidential. The research tool was reviewed and approved by Doctoral Program Coordination Committee, School of Communication Studies, University of the Punjab as well as the Psychology Department, Punjab Prisons (Rafiq, Iqbal & Afzal, 2024).

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