



Unveiling the Unspoken: A Content Analysis of ‘School Girl’ Sri Lankan Online Pornography

*¹P. Y. O. Perera, ²W. G. A. D. Pieris

¹Department of Medical Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

²Department of Psychology and Counselling, Faculty of Health Science,
The Open University, Nawala, Sri Lanka

Email address of the corresponding author - *oshadaperera54@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Technological advancements in Sri Lanka have normalized and popularized the use of pornography, particularly with a focus on schoolgirl-related content. Unfortunately, the potential negative consequences associated with this content category have been largely disregarded. This study aims to examine the portrayal of Sri Lankan schoolgirls in Sri Lankan pornographic videos, focusing on behaviours, scenarios, and power dynamics. It analyses the representation of agency, autonomy, and consent, emphasizing gender equality. This sheds light on the objectification and sexualisation of schoolgirls in pornographic videos, emphasizing concerns about protection against harmful societal stereotypes. Employing a content analysis approach, the study purposively selects videos from three popular adult websites based on recent uploads and explicit references to schoolgirls. A comprehensive coding system is developed to analyse descriptive characteristics, sexual behaviours, scenarios, agency, autonomy, consent, and power dynamics, ensuring intercoder reliability through rigorous familiarization and systematic analysis. The analysis of 111 Sri Lankan schoolgirl pornographic videos reveals significant findings. The portrayal of performers wearing school uniforms (48.5%) raises concerns about the objectification of schoolgirls. Dominant

themes include romantic scenarios (79.2%), with prevalent sexual behaviours involving vaginal intercourse (65.7%) and non-penetrative activities (63.9%) and promoting less safe sexual practices. Power dynamics vary between equal (77.4%) and unequal (22.5%) relationships. Results suggest that Sri Lankan pornography perpetuates stereotypes portraying schoolgirls as sexually assertive individuals. Further research is needed to understand the motivations behind the demand for this genre and its societal impact, enabling efforts to combat harmful stereotypes.

1. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid technological advancement and widespread availability of the internet, the usage of pornography has become increasingly normalized and prevalent. Internet pornography, defined as sexually explicit material available on the internet, has become pervasive in popular culture, raising concerns about its impact on individuals' sexual lives (Peter & Valkenburg, 2011). One prevalent theme is the "schoolgirl" fantasy (Schaefer, 2017), where adult performers depict characters resembling young school-aged girls, often dressed in school uniforms. The school girl fantasy in pornography has been a subject of debate among scholars due to its potential to perpetuate harmful stereotypes and contribute to the sexualisation of minors (Groves et al., 2011). Viewers of pornography are found to internalize the sexual scripts depicted, influencing their sexual fantasies and behaviours (Groves et al., 2011; Weinberg et al., 2010), which means, these schoolgirl stereotypes can shape people's perception of real-life school girls. The portrayal of women in pornography often reduces them to passive, submissive objects, diminishing their agency (Bridges et al., 2010). Similarly, female actors in the teen category may be portrayed as sexually passive, resulting in imbalanced power dynamics within sexual encounters (Ogas & Gaddam, 2011). Also in porn videos, vaginal intercourse is common, while behaviours such

as anal intercourse occur less frequently on free adult internet websites (Gorman et al., 2010). However, limited research exists on the specific sexual activities and themes associated with the schoolgirl category and its portrayal of schoolgirls.

Sri Lanka is often recognized for its rich cultural heritage and social traditions in South Asia. However, various studies have pointed out instances of gender discrimination against girls in the country (World Health Organization, 2018) and recent years, Sri Lanka has also seen a significant increase in the pornographic industry. Of particular prominence within this industry is the prevalence of the schoolgirl fantasy as a mainstream theme in videos. However, the potential negative consequences associated with this specific category as an individual and society have been relatively understudied. Furthermore, exposure to schoolgirl fantasy pornography is significantly associated with an increased risk of child abuse (Henek & Bartels, 2020) and an analysis of Google Trends data spanning from 2018 to 2022 highlights a troubling trend, with Sri Lanka ranking second in terms of searches related to "child porn videos." (Google Trends, 2023). These findings serve as a poignant reminder of the urgency to comprehensively understand the portrayal of Sri Lankan schoolgirls in pornographic content. By delving into the portrayal, this research aims to shed light on the potential objectification and sexualisation of schoolgirls, raising critical concerns regarding their well-being and protection against exploitation. Additionally, by analysing the prevalent themes, scenarios, and power dynamics depicted in these videos, a broader understanding of how gender roles and inequalities are perpetuated within the realm of pornography can be attained. This study offers valuable insights into societal issues encompassing cultural norms, attitudes towards gender roles, and the objectification of girls.

The study will be guided by two primary research objectives: 1) conducting a comprehensive analysis of the prevalence and portrayal of behaviours, scenarios, and settings in Sri Lankan pornographic videos featuring schoolgirls, and 2) examining the representation of agency, autonomy, and consent in the sexual fantasies depicted in Sri Lankan pornographic videos involving schoolgirls, with a specific emphasis on power dynamics and gender equality.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study employs a content analysis methodology to critically examine the portrayal of school girls in Sri Lankan pornographic videos. The research utilizes a purposive sampling technique to select a substantial number of videos from the three most popular adult websites in Sri Lanka according to the ranking analysis provided by SEMrush, a highly regarded digital marketing research tool (Semrush, 2023). To ensure a comprehensive and up-to-date analysis, the videos are sorted using the "Recent" category within each website. The selection process specifically targets videos uploaded between January 2020 and April 2023, providing a contemporary and relevant sample. The inclusion and exclusion criteria were carefully crafted within the sampling criteria to identify videos that prominently feature school girls, based on the presence of school uniforms and explicit references in the video titles.

A formal coding system was developed to analyse the representation of school girls in Sri Lankan pornographic videos. It captured information on descriptive characteristics, sexual behaviours, scenarios, and aspects such as agency, autonomy, consent, and power dynamics. The coding system allowed for flexibility and accommodated ambiguous or missing depictions. Two raters underwent rigorous familiarization and engaged in regular discussions to ensure consistency. A thorough piloting process involved testing the

coding procedure and refining the system. Inter-coder reliability was assessed through a percent agreement analysis conducted between two independent raters. Percentage agreement ranged from 90% to 95% (average: 94.8%). Also, this was rechecked with Inter-coder reliability using Cohen's kappa statistic, indicating substantial to almost good agreement (kappa values: 0.67 to 0.89). Ethical considerations were addressed, ensuring responsible data handling and sensitivity toward the privacy and dignity of individuals in the videos.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study examined a dataset comprising 111 videos portraying Sri Lankan school girls obtained from the three most popular Sri Lankan erotic websites during the period from January 2022 to April 2023. The length of the videos ranged from 0.52 to 24.04 minutes ($M = 8.05$, $SD = 5.25$).

The majority of analysed videos (74.7%) depicted sexual encounters in private settings, while a smaller proportion showed classroom (6.3%), outdoor (7.2%), and public (1.8%) settings. These findings suggest a preference for intimate and secluded environments in sexual content portrayal. Approximately 48% of videos featured female performers wearing school uniforms, potentially leading to the objectification of individuals (Bridges et al., 2010), particularly schoolgirls. The presence of school uniforms in these videos can contribute to the perpetuation of harmful stereotypes and reinforces the idea that young individuals, specifically those dressed in such attire, are objects of desire. This parallels findings from general pornography research, where viewers tend to internalize depicted sexual scripts and stereotypes, impacting their perspectives and behaviours (Groves et al., 2011; Weinberg et al., 2010). However, limited research exists on this specific issue within global Pornography, indicating the need for future investigations. Other videos

had explicit schoolgirl references in their titles, while only two videos made implicit or explicit references to the performers' race or religion.

The analysis of schoolgirl sexual fantasies in videos revealed that romantic fantasies were the dominant theme, present in 79.2% of the videos. This indicates a strong preference for romanticized scenarios involving schoolgirls. These depictions frequently incorporated scenarios in which schoolgirls engaged in tender and affectionate interactions with their partners, particularly evident through narrative, dialogues, and behaviours that align with the romantic category. Exhibitionist fantasies were the second most prevalent theme, appearing in 9.9% of the videos. These portrayals often highlighted schoolgirls expressing a desire for public exposure, especially in masturbation videos. They frequently showcased the schoolgirls' inclination to share their intimate experiences with an audience, intensifying the exhibitionist nature of this category. Fantasies of being dominated were less common, found in only 1.8% of the videos. One possible explanation can be the emerging romantic theme; adolescence is commonly associated with the exploration of romantic and sexual relationships, characterized by intense emotions and desires (Hall, 1904). It is plausible that pornography producers attempt to tap into this aspect by capturing the allure of youth and romantic fantasies.

The analysis of sexual behaviours in the videos revealed common patterns. Vaginal intercourse was prevalent in 65.7% of the videos, followed by oral sex and non-penetrative activities in approximately 38% and 63% respectively. Behaviours like anal sex and BDSM (bondage, discipline, sadism, masochism) were less common, appearing in less than 3% of the videos. These findings align with previous studies that show vaginal intercourse being prevalent while behaviours such as anal intercourse were less common on free adult internet websites (Gorman

et al, 2010). Only 3.6% of the videos depicted safe sex practices, despite their importance in preventing STIs and unintended pregnancies. Previous studies have shown that pornography often promotes unprotected sex through its emphasis on fantasy scenarios and exaggerated portrayals of sexual encounters (Ogas & Gaddam, 2011). However, previous research has also linked pornography consumption to unprotected sexual acts (Peter & Valkenburg, 2011), making these results crucial for societal attention.

The current study analysed power dynamics in Sri Lankan pornographic videos using four components: Agency, Autonomy, Consent, and Power Equality. The findings revealed that the majority of videos portrayed female performers in an active role (80.1%), suggesting an emphasis on portraying Sri Lankan school girls as sexually assertive. Consensual sexual activities were prevalent in a large majority of videos (90%), often communicated through non-verbal cues (88.2%). The study found that power dynamics in the videos were divided between equal (77.4%) and unequal (22.5%) power dynamics. Most videos depicting equal power dynamics showed open communication, consensual exploration of various sexual activities, and emotional connection, while few videos portraying unequal power dynamics exhibited dominance, submission, and obedience behaviours. However, previous studies have typically found that male actors in pornography (Non-Sri Lankan) are portrayed as having greater access to power than female actors, and female actors in the Teen videos may be more likely to be portrayed as Childlike, hesitant, and sexually passive as a result of their inexperience, and thus are depicted as having less power in a sexual encounter than their male partners and compared to female actors in the other category (Ogas and Gaddam, 2011). However, these findings contrast with this study's results, which highlight videos depicting equal power dynamics. Also, this finding demonstrates a conscious effort to challenge

traditional gender narratives where women are typically assigned passive roles in sexual activities (Bridges et al., 2010). The distribution of power equality ($\chi^2(1) = 95.827, p < .000$), agency ($\chi^2(1) = 103.0, p < .000$), and autonomy ($\chi^2(1) = 67.987, p < .001$) in Sri Lankan pornographic videos was found to be significantly different from chance, indicating that these variables are deliberately constructed and portrayed within the videos. The motivations behind these portrayals may include reinforcing power imbalances and challenging or subverting gender norms are unclear and can be a market demand. Alternatively, it could also be attributed to other social factors, such as the majority of videos being produced as private content rather than as part of an organized industry. The crucial question here is why such market demand occurs, and what Sri Lankan pornography users consciously and unconsciously request? The answers are not clear, necessitating further research in this area.

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study provides valuable insights into the content and portrayal of Sri Lankan schoolgirl pornography, revealing prevalent romantic fantasies and the depiction of schoolgirls as active participants in consensual and equal power dynamics. The findings also raise concerns about the objectification of schoolgirls and the limited emphasis on safe sex practices. Moreover, it is essential to highlight the potential harm associated with this pornography category, as exposure to schoolgirl fantasy pornography has been significantly linked to an increased risk of child abuse. By bringing attention to these issues, this research contributes to the betterment of the society by increasing awareness, and challenging harmful narratives. It highlights the need to address the potential exploitation and sexualisation of schoolgirls, emphasizing their well-being and protection. Further research is necessary to explore the motivations behind

the demand for this type of pornography and its broader societal impact. Therefore, understanding the societal factors influencing the production and consumption of such content can guide efforts to combat harmful stereotypes and promote a healthier sexual culture.

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