

A REPORT
OF
A PORNOGRAPHY SURVEY
QUESTIONNAIRE

PREPARED BY: SURINDAR DHALIWAL
SHONNA HAYES
RENA ARMSTRONG

SPONSOR: WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S ASSN.

FUNDED BY: SUMMER CANADA STUDENT
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

COMPLETED: OCTOBER 31, 1983.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Objectives
3. Methodology
4. The Survey Questionnaire
5. Analysis of Specific Questions
6. Conclusions

INTRODUCTION

This pornography survey questionnaire report is the final product of a research project, sponsored by the West Kootenay Women's Association and funded by the Summer Canada Student Employment Program.

It must be stressed that the survey questionnaire is but an initial step on the road to effective decision-making with respect to pornography. In addition, the field work of this survey questionnaire was accomplished in a limited amount of time.

OBJECTIVES

The survey questionnaire was exercised in the cities of Trail and Nelson to a sample population of 900 with the following objectives in mind:

1. to discover opinions and attitudes of a systematic sampling of adults (over 19) to the issue of pornography.
2. to statistically analyze the surveys returned to the Nelson Women's Centre.
3. to conclude this section of the project with a written report.

METHODOLOGY

The following steps were taken to accomplish the objectives of the project:

1. Background research accomplished into the issue of pornography from a feminist perspective.
2. Video "Not A Love Story" viewed.
3. Survey questions drafted.
4. Drafted survey questions reviewed by supervisors and project participants for necessary changes.
5. Final copy of survey questionnaire drafted and approved.
6. Survey questionnaire typed and approximately 950 copies were gestetnered. Envelopes with stamps printed.
7. Systematic sampling of names in phone book completed. A list of addresses of residences was drawn up and organized into delivery routes.
8. Survey questionnaires copies folded, stuffed into envelopes and delivered by hand in Nelson and Trail.
9. Returned questionnaires skimmed for content and filed.
10. At the end of project, with all responses to survey questionnaire organized by sex and age groups into categories, the statistics were tabulated by project participants.
11. Final report written and typed.

THE SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

A QUESTIONNAIRE ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION:

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS BEING CONDUCTED AS PART OF A FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE CANADA SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM. THE SUBJECT OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE IS PORNOGRAPHY. WE HAVE SELECTED RESIDENCES IN NELSON AND TRAIL AT RANDOM, AND WE URGE AN ADULT MEMBER OF YOUR HOME TO RESPOND TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TODAY.

PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE ANY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION TO ENSURE COMPLETE ANONYMITY. YOUR RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE WILL AID IN THE DETERMINATION OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS THIS ISSUE, SO YOUR COOPERATION IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, POSTAGE HAS BEEN PREPAID. SIMPLY DROP THE QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE MAIL BOX AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION.

1. What is PORNOGRAPHY?

Choose the definition(s) which most accurately agree(s) with your own.

Space is provided for an alternative definition. Circle a, b, c, d, and/or e.

- a) pornography - the depiction (as in writing) of erotic behaviour designed primarily to cause sexual excitement.
- b) pornography - is the written or visual portrayal of sexual activity.
- c) pornography - is any material that advocates, encourages or condones the linkage between sexuality and violence, coercion and exploitation of women and children.
- d) pornography - the legal definition according to Section 159(8) of the Criminal code refers to obscene (rather than pornographic) material as "... any publication a dominant characteristic of which is the undue exploitation of sex, or of sex and any one or more of the following subjects, namely, crime, horror, cruelty and violence.

e) pornography - _____

2. What type of images do you associate with "hard porn" ?

RESPONSE: _____

What type of images do you associate with "soft porn" ?

RESPONSE: _____

3. At present, do you read pornographic magazines ?
REGULARLY OCCASIONALLY NEVER (circle one)

If you have read pornographic magazines, please list their titles below.

Where of from whom did you obtain the magazines? Check one or more responses.

AT A: news-stand _____ FROM: "behind the counter" _____
drug store _____ mail order companies _____
corner store _____ sex (love) shops _____

FROM WHOM: family members _____ WHERE: the U.S. _____
friends _____
co-workers _____ OTHER: _____ (specify) _____

4. Do you believe that Playboy, Penthouse and Playgirl magazines are essentially harmless "soft" pornography?

YES NO DON'T KNOW (circle one)

5. Do you watch or have you seen pornographic movies?

YES NO (circle one)

If your response is YES, where have you watched these movies? Check one or more places.

PRIVATE HOME: your own _____ THEATRES: drive-in _____
a friend's _____ local _____
a co-worker's _____ Canadian city _____
in the U.S. _____
HOTELS/MOTELS: local _____ OTHER: _____ (specify) _____
Canadian city _____
in the U. S. _____

6. Should Pay T.V. channels show pornographic movies?

YES NO (circle one)

COMMENTS: _____

7. Do you find pornographic material (magazines, movies, video tapes, posters, or paperbacks) to be: (Check one or more responses.)

entertaining _____ educational _____
sexually stimulating _____ interesting _____
revolting _____ objectionable _____
other _____ (specify) _____

8. Generally, do men feel differently from women about pornography?

YES NO DON'T KNOW (circle one)

If your response is YES, how do you think women feel about pornography?

RESPONSE: _____

8. (continued)

ALSO, how do you think men feel about pornography?

RESPONSE: _____

9. If the adjectives or phrases below depict how you see men being portrayed in pornographic material, write "M" in the blank; if the words depict how you see women being portrayed write "F" in the blank; if you think that both women and men are depicted by the following adjectives or phrases, write "M/F", in the blank. Fill in one or more blanks.

as sex objects	___	humiliated	___
degraded	___	insatiable	___
dominating	___	powerful	___
enjoying the experience	___	powerless	___
hateful	___	seductive	___
other	___ (specify)	_____	___

COMMENTS: _____

10. Do you agree with these statements? Circle the appropriate response for each.

"Pornography condones the abuse of women"

YES SOMETIMES NO DON'T KNOW

"'Hard-core' pornography teaches men and women that women like to be beaten up and brutalized."

YES SOMETIMES NO DON'T KNOW

"Pornography is sexist propaganda."

YES SOMETIMES NO DON'T KNOW

"Pornography acts to discourage male demonstrations of tenderness and compassion."

YES SOMETIMES NO DON'T KNOW

11. Do you think that pornography is a problem in our society?

YES NO DON'T KNOW (circle one)

a) If your response is NO, why not?

COMMENTS: _____

11. (continued)

b) If your response is YES, i) in what way(s) is it a problem?

COMMENTS: _____

ii) what do you think should be done about it?

COMMENTS: _____

12. Research shows a link between T.V. violence and the increased rate of violence in society. Do you believe that a similar linkage exists between pornography and the increased rates of violent acts against women and children.

YES NO DON'T KNOW (circle one)

13. "Violent sex (explicit or implied infliction of pain during the sex act) is a "turn-on" for men."

Do you agree with the statement above?

YES NO DON'T KNOW (circle one)

Do you believe that men think this violent behaviour is a "turn-on" for women?

YES NO DON'T KNOW (circle one)

COMMENTS: _____

14. The final question is about you. Check the appropriate blanks.

M	_____	AGE: 19-25	_____	OCCUPATION:	_____
F	_____	26-40	_____	(specify)	_____
		41-60	_____		
		61 and over	_____		

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO INCLUDE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ANSWERING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.

Analysis of Specific Questions

1. What is PORNOGRAPHY?

Choose the definition(s) which most accurately agree(s) with your own. Space is provided for an alternative definition. Circle a, b, c, d and/or e.

- a) pornography - the depiction (as in writing) of erotic behavior designed primarily to cause sexual excitement.
- b) pornography - is the written or visual portrayal of sexual activity.
- c) pornography - is any material that advocates, encourages or condones the linkage between sexuality and violence, coercion and exploitation of women and children.
- d) pornography - the legal definition according to Section 159 (8) of the Criminal Code refers to obscene (rather than pornographic) material as "... any publication a dominant characteristic of which is the undue exploitation of sex, or of sex and any one or more of the following subjects, namely, crime, horror, cruelty and violence.

e) pornography - _____

	AGE								
	19 - 25		26 - 40		41 - 60		61 - over		
	SEX								
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
A	24	37	21	15	14	45	42	43	%
B	29	25	34	35	14	45	37	43	%
C	62	25	49	25	59	27	63	43	%
D	43	25	36	15	41	45	58	43	%

3. At present do you read pornographic magazines?
 REGULARLY OCCASIONALLY NEVER (circle one)
 If you have read pornographic magazines, please list their titles below.

Where or from whom did you obtain the magazines? Check one or more responses.

At a: news-stand _____ From: "behind the counter" _____
 drug store _____ mail order companies _____
 corner store _____ sex (love) shops _____

From whom: family members _____ Where: the U.S. _____
 friends _____
 co-workers _____ Other: _____ (specify) _____

AGE .	19 - 25		26 - 40		41 - 60		61 - over		
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
Reg.	0	50	0	10	0	0	0	0	%
Occ.	19	37	36	65	3	45	5	14	%
Never	67	12	64	25	97	54	95	71	%
Newstand	19	50	34	55	3	45	21	0	%
Drugstore	0	25	13	25	13	0	5	0	%
Cornerstore	10	37	13	35	13	9	5	14	%
Behind Cou.	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	%
Mail Order	0	12	0	10	0	0	0	0	%
Sex Shops	0	0	0	5	3	0	0	0	%
Family	10	25	26	0	18	18	5	0	%
Friends	19	25	40	40	8	18	11	0	%
Co-workers	5	62	9	15	3	18	0	0	%
U.S.	0	12	11	15	15	9	0	14	%

4. Do you believe that Playboy, Playgirl and Penthouse magazines are essentially harmless "soft" pornography?

YES NO DON'T KNOW (circle one)

	AGE		19 - 25		26 - 40		41 - 60		61 - over		
	SEX		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
Yes	29	75	43	85	30	45	11	0			%
No	43	25	45	10	32	18	42	28			%
Don't Know	24	0	13	5	41	36	37	57			%

5. Do you watch or have you seen pornographic movies?

YES NO (circle one)
 If your response is YES, where have you watched these movies? Check one or more places.

Private Home: your own _____ Theatres: drive-in _____
 a friend's _____ local _____
 a co-workers _____ Canadian City _____
 in the U.S. _____

Hotels/Motels: local _____ Other: _____ (specify) _____
 Canadian City _____
 in the U.S. _____

AGE \ SEX	19 - 25		26 - 40		41 - 60		61 - over		
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
Yes	67	100	0	90	19	45	5	14	%
No	33	0	40	10	81	54	95	71	%
Own	24	37	21	30	5	36	0	0	%
Friend's	29	87	28	55	3	9	0	0	%
Co-worker	0	87	0	20	0	9	0	0	%
Drive-in	29	62	17	20	5	18	0	0	%
Local The.	19	62	15	10	0	18	0	0	%
Can. City	29	50	21	25	0	18	0	0	%
U.S.	5	12	11	35	3	9	0	14	%
Can. motel	10	12	4	10	0	0	0	0	%
U.S. motel	5	12	9	10	0	0	0	0	%

7. Do you find pornographic material (magazines, movies, video tapes, posters, or paperbacks) to be: (Check one or more responses.)

entertaining _____ educational _____
 sexually stimulating _____ interesting _____
 revolting _____ objectionable _____
 other _____ (specify) _____

	AGE		19-25		26-40		41-60		61-over	
	SEX		F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Entertaining	14	75	23	50	5	36	0	0		
Sex.Stim.	24	50	40	55	8	27	5	14		
Revolting	52	0	32	15	65	18	74	14		
Educational	5	37	15	25	3	0	0	0		
Interesting	4	62	21	40	3	36	0	0		
Objectionable	48	0	47	10	62	36	84	43		

%
%
%
%
%
%

8. If the adjectives or phrases below depict how you see men being portrayed in pornographic material, write "M" in the blank; if the words depict how women are portrayed, write "F" in the blank; if you think that both women and men are depicted by the following adjectives or phrases, write "M/F", in the blank. Fill in one or more blanks.

as sex objects	_____	humiliated	_____
degraded	_____	insatiable	_____
dominating	_____	powerful	_____
enjoying the experience	_____	powerless	_____
hateful	_____	seductive	_____
other	_____ (specify)	_____	_____

AGE	19 - 25		26 - 40		41 - 60		61 - over			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
SEX	"F" "M"	"F" "M"	"F" "M"	"F" "M"						
Sex Object	33 95	12 75	40 94	55 95	32 78	27 54	26 58	0 0	0 0	%
Degraded	14 90	25 50	25 81	30 60	24 81	27 45	22 63	28 28	28 28	%
Dominating	81 14	75 37	62 23	75 40	68 8	45 27	58 0	58 0	58 0	%
Enjoying Exp.	90 62	75 62	83 79	90 95	46 11	54 36	32 16	0 0	0 0	%
Hateful	43 24	0 25	30 21	15 10	16 27	9 36	21 16	14 14	14 14	%
Humiliated	10 71	0 25	13 60	30 40	5 59	9 18	42 0	42 0	42 0	%
Insatiable	57 52	25 25	57 53	30 65	41 11	27 27	21 16	0 0	0 0	%
Powerful	5 71	62 12	81 28	50 35	51 3	36 0	47 0	0 0	0 0	%
Powerless	76 5	0 57	25 55	3 54	0 27	0 42	0 50	0 0	0 0	%
Seductive	43 81	37 62	38 87	45 85	24 46	27 45	21 42	0 0	0 0	%

9. Do you think that pornography is a problem in our society?
YES NO DON'T KNOW (circle one)

AGE	19 - 25		26 - 40		41 - 60		61 - over		
SEX	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
Yes	69	50	74	50	95	45	95	71	%
No	3	50	15	35	19	27	0	0	%
Don't know	10	0	6	15	8	18	5	14	%

10. Research shows a link between T.V. violence and the increased rate of violence in society. Do you believe that a similar link exists between pornography and the increased rates of violent acts against women and children?

YES NO DON'T KNOW (circle one)

AGE	19 - 25		25 - 40		41 - 60		61 - over	
SEX	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Yes	52	37	74	30	95	36	89	57
No	10	37	17	40	22	18	0	0
Don't know	3	25	13	30	16	36	11	28

20
20
20

CONCLUSIONS

For most of the survey questions, the results shown on the tables are self-explanatory. A large cross section of opinions, dependent on the person's age and sex primarily, was uncovered by the survey questionnaire. In addition to these two factors of influence that were displayed in the results of the survey, other aspects of a person's lifestyle were found to affect the opinions held about pornography. It was found that a person's past experience, personal biases and his/her cultural upbringing affected the opinion held about pornography.

Despite the differences of opinion that were shown by the results of the survey, the similarities of responses of persons in specific age groups indicate that strongly opposing views are held by different generations of persons responding to the survey questionnaire. It was found that the other main element that aids in forming an individual's opinion of pornography is the sex of that individual.

It is difficult to obtain a firmly conclusive statement or report concerning a topic that is so controversial and that can elicit as many emotional reactions as does pornography. But it is strongly felt that more education is needed in the area of the effects of "soft" and "hard" pornography on people's consciousnesses. Two other topics stand out as possible starting points for more research, namely: the availability of pornographic movies on Pay T.V., and the effects of pornography on society.

The survey questionnaires that were received from the Trail and Nelson areas differed significantly and in response to this phenomenon it is suggested that a more complete study take place in each area. This study could take the form of an opinion poll, a cross sectional survey or a questionnaire.