

# THE PORNOGRAPHY QUESTIONNAIRE (PQ). PILOT STUDY BASED ON ITALIAN POPULATION SAMPLE

Quattrini F. \*, Borgia C.\*\*, De Rosa L.\*\*, Mollica M.G. \*\*

\* University of L'Aquila – Italy

\*\* Italian Institute of Scientific Sexology – Rome, Italy

## Introduction & Objectives

The Pornography Questionnaire (PQ) is a new assessment tool created by the Authors to collect useful information about the social perception of phenomenon pornography in Italian sample. Specifically, the PQ is aimed to evaluate the most common stereotypes Italians have when they think at or use pornography. This pilot study has two different purposes. The first is to analyse the PQ reliability, the second is to understanding why most people using pornography from early adolescence have different stereotypes left on it.

## Methods

The PQ is composed of 3 modular forms: 1) anamnestic area; A) use of pornography area (fruition & function) and B) preconceptions and stereotypes on pornography area. In particular, this later form is composed of 10 sub-area: 1) prostitution 2) paedophilia and other paraphilias, 3) crime, 4) sexual assault or abuse to women and children, 5) sexism, 6) sexual disorders, 7) psycho-socialigical diseases, 8) moralism, 9) guilt feelings and 10) porno-pedagogy. Except for anamnestic area, PQ is composed of 51 five-points Likert Scale Items.

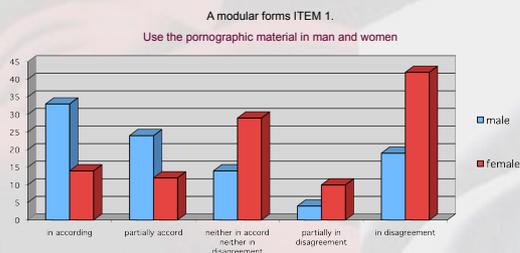
The questions are formulated to focus on the typical use of pornographic material in every phase of the life and on the preconceptions and existing typical stereotypes on the phenomen pornography.

Our research focused on 216 subjects (average age 32; SD 10,3; range 18-71) coming from North (26,4%), Centre (47,2%) and Sud (25,4%) Italy. In particular the sample is composed of 97 males and 119 females, 82,9% heterosexuals, 11,6% homosexuals and 5,6% bisexuals. The survey was administered on printed format to respecting the anonymity.

## Preliminary Results and Discussions

The PQ descriptive analysis in (A) modular forms suggests a similar trend between males and females in our sample.

The pornography is largely used in each life's phases, particularly for men (31,9%). The  $\chi^2$  analysis shows that there is a discriminant between man and women with regard to the frequency of pornography use (Item 1.a) ( $29,684 > 23,506$ , df 4) ( $p = .0001$ ). Only the 4% of the women of our sample use the pornography one or more times the week. The greatest part uses once her less than a month (70%), and 26% she doesn't consider the pornography and the masturbation. Interesting result 33% female use pornography one or more times a month: It is possible that this result is associated with the use of pornography to sexual partners in some erotic games. The use of the pornographic material is meaningfully correlated to the sex of our subject. The men are for 57% in accord to use pornography, in comparison to the 52% of disagreement of the women (item 1)  $\chi^2 (27,431 > 23,506$  df 4) ( $p = .0001$ ).

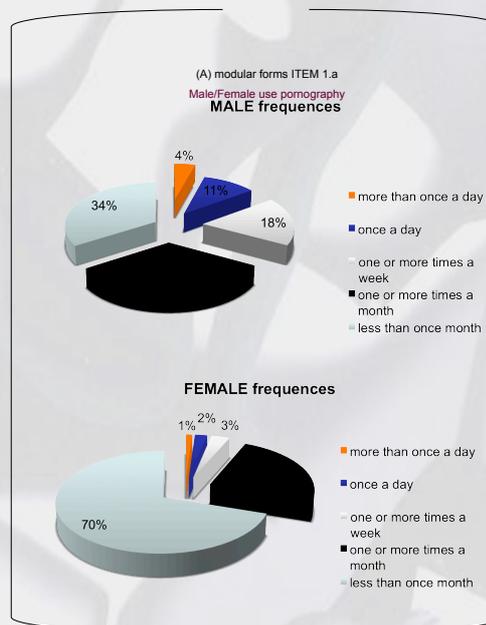


All the common preconceptions and stereotypes on pornography are debunked in this survey, for example: connection of the world of pornography with mafia (35,6%), and pornography is produced only by men for men (51,8%).

In the (B) modular forms in the "crime" area both men and women agree to associate the recycling of dirty money and the control from the crime organized (like mafia) to the environment of the pornography. Always in the same area the 42% subjects are convinced that porno producers exploit the porno actors to become wealthy, and so, who chooses porno actors life they earns a lot of easy and fast money (59%).

Porno is produced as men for the men. Our sample in the "sexism" area agrees to affirm that the plots of the porno films they are exclusively based on masculine imaginations. More interesting data which also the women are excited with the porno (78,2%). This data underlines that, for how much is strong the stereotypes of a pornography are only for man, the stimulation given by pornographic images it can also result pleasant to the kind sex.

The porno-pedagogy area reveals that 28% of the Italian sample agree that pornography can be used for educational purposes (item 41), and the 39% of subjects affirm that a correct use of the pornography can prepare to a more aware sexuality (item 42).



## Conclusions

This preliminary data show that in Italy the ground is prolific to start to finally demystify pornography in order to teach it at school to adolescents, the most common consumers of each genre of hard material.

We hope that in the future, pornography could be part of each sexual education program, delivered to adult and adolescents. A larger perspective of study needs that the PQ be administered in a larger population to reveal most useful information on Italians' perception of phenomenon pornography.