

# The Impact of Explicit Material from Digital Platforms on Young People and Its Relationship with Sexually Antisocial Behaviors.

El impacto del material explícito de plataformas digitales en los jóvenes y su relación con las conductas antisociales de índole sexual.



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#### Abstract.

The world is evolving and with it, in addition to the resulting beneficial changes brought about by access to the Internet and the use of technologies, there are also imminent dangers that are implicit in the interaction of digital media. The present research analyzes the influence of social networks and digital platforms on the behavior and interaction of young people between 15 and 18 years old, because young people are characterized by in a stage of exploration of their sexuality and the need for information related to their sexual development, therefore, it is crucial from a criminological perspective to understand how this consumption affects their thoughts, ideas and interactions that brings with it the involvement in the consumption of sexually explicit material available on digital platforms as is the case of *OnlyFans* and its relationship with antisocial behaviors of a sexual nature.

**Keywords:** Digital platforms. *OnlyFans*. Antisocial behaviors. Social interaction.

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#### Resumen.

El mundo evoluciona y con ello, además de los cambios benéficos resultantes que trae consigo el acceso al internet y el uso de las tecnologías, también representan peligros inminentes que se encuentran implícitos en la interacción de los medios digitales. La presente investigación analiza la influencia de las redes sociales y las plataformas digitales en la conducta e interacción de los jóvenes de entre 15 y 18 años, debido a que los jóvenes se caracterizan por en una etapa de exploración de su sexualidad y la necesidad de contar con información relacionada a su desarrollo sexual, por lo tanto, es crucial desde una perspectiva criminológica comprender cómo este consumo afecta sus pensamientos, ideas e interacciones que trae consigo el implicarse en el consumo de material explícito sexual disponible en plataformas digitales como es el caso de *OnlyFans* y su relación con las conductas antisociales de índole sexual.

**Palabras clave:** Plataformas digitales. *OnlyFans*. Conductas antisociales. Interacción social.

#### Introduction

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a growing incidence of exploitation and consumption of adult content, which led to the emergence of new digital platforms for commercial purposes such as "OnlyFans". Save the children (2020) mentions in its report regarding pornography and adolescence that the digital environment is a space of social construction increasingly central in our lives, and for the adolescent population, this involves the development of identity and awareness of sexuality, hence the value of the content consumed.

Therefore, some research related to digital platforms that may show inappropriate content for young people, in consideration of ages between 15 and 18 years, are analyzed, along with statistics related to the use of technologies, which have been renamed by the term Relationship Technologies, Information and Communication (TRIC) are presented.

Likewise, the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI, 2023), establishes that the crime of rape had a maximum scale in the group of 10 and 14 years old and most of the victims were girls, out of a total of 4197 cases.

Regarding the virtual environment, 33.6% of girls and adolescents between 12 and 17 years of age who used the Internet or cell phones between 2021 and August 2022,



received photos or videos with sexual content and 32.3% received insinuations or proposals of a sexual nature, while only 18.2% and 12% of boys and male adolescents were in the same situation.

Crime in the age of technology has a new aspect, which comes as a tool through portable electronic devices (cell phones, consoles and tablets) in which from children to adults are almost always connected. However, the lack of control over the sites and applications that are accessed can turn such a useful tool into a catapult of violence and disruptive social behaviors that are marked as antisocial of a sexual nature.

The present research stems from the analysis of the increase in the figures of sexual violence in the country and added to the fact that the use of technology and social networks have become part of the daily dynamics of young people and adults, it is interesting to analyze the relationship between the platforms of explicit sexual content, referring specifically to *OnlyFans*, where photos and videos are shown that although they are with the full consent of the owners of the profiles, they invite to exploit the morbid and given the way in which this platform works, which in exchange for payment offers access to the material, it promotes a market that pays to view and store multimedia files shared between the creator and the fan.

In that sense, although it is established in the policies of such platform to be a site for adults with an integrated accreditation process, the system to validate such age is not very effective, since teenagers or children could circumvent this system and generate an account that allows them to access such platform.

Therefore, it is necessary to question whether the normalization of access and consumption of sexually explicit material on digital platforms such as *OnlyFans* contributes to anti-social behaviors of a sexual nature in young people between 15 and 18 years of age.

In order to interpret the antisocial behaviors that affect society in general, a connection is observed with the constant exposure to pornography to which consumers subscribe to digital platforms such as "OnlyFans", which mostly offers sexual content, although there are more categories, this is the one that generates more interest among



consumers. This phenomenon has experienced a remarkable growth in current contexts, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

For this reason, it is considered urgent that this social phenomenon be studied from a criminological approach, since, although there are some investigations based on the topic of the digital platform "OnlyFans", none has addressed the consequences of interaction with this digital platform considering the possible sexual violence that is triggered by a group mimicry among young people, especially in ages between 15 and 18 years, especially if it is linked to antisocial behavior derived from normalizing access to this network and the consumption of the material that is exhibited in it.

The *OnlyFans* platform allows to establish a more direct link between the user and the content of its real creators without an intermediary industry, this allows the interaction to be faster and in turn the satisfaction of the material to be consumed is at the user's will.

The initiative of wanting to know more about this dynamic between the pornographic product, consumption and consumer is undoubtedly to denote the behavioral repetition of a group of people, in this case dealing with adolescents, which, motivated by coexistence, sense of belonging, even among peers seeking acceptance or experience are promoting a circle of violence without being merely a direct physical aggressor.

This research is relevant considering the novel trend of the *OnlyFans* platform, so it is important to establish demographic data and the most common behaviors of consumers of this content to unravel the nature and evolution of the pornographic industry and especially what is the market that seeks to monopolize.

On the other hand, there is a latent need to address these issues to generate sources of information to re-educate the healthy sexual development of young people between 15 and 18 years, since due to misinformation, taboos, lack of innovation in teaching techniques in relation to sex education (from home or school), sexist education, social interaction of new generations, little parental supervision in the use of mobile devices, indicates a lack of empathy and a repeated concern to access unsuitable sites, consume pornography and share



it; which as a social consequence is already observed in youth social interactions and can be a motivation to engage in antisocial behaviors of a sexual nature.

#### Discovering the digital platform OnlyFans

The *OnlyFans* platform was created in 2016 as an online platform that hosts digital and audiovisual content, its commercial name is *OnlyFans*, however, its domain is owned by the British company Fenix International Limited. Its creators, father and son Guy Stokely and Timothy Stokely. Subsequently, Leonid Radvinsky, who obtained the largest percentage of the business, joined the share agreement. The owner of the largest percentage of this platform has been linked to other projects, a website known as Cybertania, which made available to users illegal passwords to access content that included premium pornography from multiple sites, this in 1990, and also owned webcams for adults. According to Radvinsky's trajectory, it is understandable that he has implemented the same line of development for the digital platform *OnlyFans*, which since his leadership managed to consolidate itself as a successful platform.

Regarding the regulation that restricts the use of this platform to minors, BBC investigations point out that in 2021 there was no control of underage users selling and appearing in explicit videos, which allows visualizing that its security filters are deficient and easy to evade. The above is worrying because it could allow a window to child pornography and this highlights not only an antisocial behavior but consummates criminal behavior.

As stated on their website, this platform aims to revolutionize links between content creators and fans by allowing them to monetize their content while developing dynamic follower-based relationships. The categories of interests are varied; from sports, health, lifestyle, artistic, etc. However, for people who have connected with this network it is no secret that most of the content is sexually tinged. Subscriptions allow access to the material and such membership gives you access for a month, you will find free content and has no restriction on who can access it by having the membership, you can even share access.



This network is mainly used to broadcast and consume content with "a la carte" quality, this gives a certain control to the subscriber over the content creator to adapt to the requests, this special consumption has an extra cost, which in this bilaterality suits the creator since the income obtained from this special service is only for him.

When we talk about the content that is disseminated on this platform, it is almost entirely explicit content, including according to an article in the law journal of the Universidad del Altiplano de Puno: "in August 2021, the service platform *OnlyFans* announced that, from October 1, it would stop hosting sexual content on its website. However, a few days after this communication, it republished a message in which it retracted its intention to no longer host this type of content on its page." (Trenado, 2022). The above should be understood as a factor of economic loss confirming that the positioning of this site is mostly based on pornography.

According to its policies, this platform is located in the category of adults only as they restrict the use to minors, however, there are tutorials on other networks where they teach you step by step how to make an account being a minor, This leaves open the possibility that adolescents in this sexual discovery seek to enter this type of platforms to view and share explicit material among a group, this derived from a context and a hypersexualized education where certain behaviors, language and habits are normalized, especially in an environment of peers where they seek to challenge who is capable of a certain task or challenge.

There are other platforms where *OnlyFans* material is filtered and presented unblocked for minors, it is important to emphasize that these types of sites are easier to access without any type of verification or regulation. In fact, as mentioned by the Audiovisual Council of Andalusia "some of these platforms offer a section in which you can read the names of the people whose content can be found on them (Consejo Audiovisual de Andalucia (CAA), 2003).

Regarding this type of explicit content +18 that as restrictive as it may seem on the *OnlyFans* platform due to the subscription that requests to pay from the profiles of interest, the reality is worrying in front of such application and network, since the material that is



uploaded on it is no longer safe given the redistribution of private content that is exposed in other groups or apps such as Telegram, Twitter, Dirtyship, etc. From the above, it is denoted that if the content is published on other sites outside the original one, it is because its rules and operating policies have been violated because the same subscribers or fans record the material, filter it and redistribute it on other sites, either for popularity and dissemination interests or for some commercial or economic interest.

The phenomenon of interactions that is perceived today is nothing but the result of an environment where hypersexualization permeates, all processes are accelerated and with it opens a door to a new use of language, normalized behaviors, habits that incite messages of identity or different recreation, even, making a parenthesis; even young girls perceive their bodies and their beauty differently and obviously their social expression is diverse, taking as an example that showing their bodies because they decide to do so in order to generate quick income is not associated with some kind of exploitation.

It is necessary to understand that "the construction of a digital society is constituted from the possibility of having knowledge that allows recognizing the dynamics of the network and intervening in it" (Vestfried and Martin, 2021). Therefore, it is not only a matter of coexisting with digital evolution and tools, but also of identifying when interaction becomes potentially dangerous. Suddenly it seems that being behind a screen where there are no people watching allows the user not to perceive the consequences of their actions, but they exist and it is required to be aware of the content produced on the network and the way in which it interacts with the digital, as it is the way to establish rules of coexistence, of limits and respect for freedom of expression and subjectivity in any of the networks or platforms, taking this into account, perhaps young people would recognize for themselves the violence that they unconsciously exercise among other users or content by not respecting the privacy and intimacy policies of the creators, either by disseminating material that by agreement is private.

The digital platform *OnlyFans* was not created solely for the production and consumption of pornographic video, however, over time to become profitable and well



remunerated, it has become almost in a sense exclusive to pornography. And just as in platforms such as Twitter that have no censorship in relation to their content, *OnlyFans* is an example of the new XXX generations, David, Noble and White mention that they are young people who already live with pornography on a daily basis either by will or by spam mode.

#### Criminological analysis of interactions through digital platforms: OnlyFans

This research is based on the interactionist criminological current. These theories are Durkheim's Anomie and developed by Robert K. Merton to understand the emergence of this new interaction and the ease to normalize social aspects that happen today and on the other hand the deviant phenomenon will be supported from the social learning theory of Edwin H. Sutherland and based on the symbolic interactionism of George H. Mead. which responds to the environment in which one lives and the interpretation of the environment.

Considering that the type of antisocial behavior that can result from interaction with the *OnlyFans* platform is of a global nature, that is to say that its acceptance and consequences have to do with the acceptance of a group, these theories, due to their content, are the ones that can explain the research as a phenomenon resulting from social interaction and the new models of socialization experienced by the new generations.

Pablos de Molina's definition of criminology reads:

Empirical and interdisciplinary science, which deals with the study of crime, the person of the offender, the victim and the social control of criminal behavior, and tries to provide valid information, contrasted, on the genesis, dynamics and main variables of crime -contemplated this as an individual problem and as a social problem-, as well as on the effective prevention programs of the same, the techniques of positive intervention in the delinquent man and the various models or systems of response to crime (García Pablos de Molina, 2007).

Therefore, the study of the variables of crime will be found not only in the individual, but also immersed in the social problem, with the understanding that the dynamics exerted in this will have repercussions on antisocial behavior.



It is essential to mention what is defined by antisocial conduct, according to Rodriguez Manzanera(2012), it is all human behavior that goes against the common good. Returning to the previous definition, it is understood that antisocial behaviors attempt against the social structure, from its fundamental values and the violation of the essential norms of coexistence.

On the other hand, deviant behavior is a behavior different from the generality and can be parasocial or antisocial or in some cases simply asocial (Rodriguez, 2012). Both definitions speak of actions incurred by a person who transgresses the agreements of a group of people and thereby destabilizes social harmony.

In order to better understand the active position of a behavior, a deviant subject is defined as one who adopts a behavior pattern different from that of the common collective (Rodriguez, 2012). In other words, the subject considered deviant is the one who makes decisions outside a framework of acceptance of normality and who generates differences that are not aligned with the society that establishes the criteria.

An example of this interpretation within our current framework is the use of smartphones, these have become a communication tool for work or academic purposes, but in turn have the margin of leisure that, while not negative, is not entirely useful to fulfill the purpose of a smartphone. Perhaps a person integrated in a social role where it is established that time should be invested in learning and knowledge will be fine with the action of making use of this tool for that purpose, however, a child or a teenager will not consider the possibility that using the device to play games or download other applications is a negative action, and that it is deviating from the accepted purpose.

Therefore, antisocial behavior occurs when generating a disruptive attack in a moral environment, values, education and positive criteria, which promotes chaos and a standard of reality, which does not necessarily imply a consequence of criminal behavior, however, like everything else, when a subject breaks social rules, the common denominator is that it escalates until their behavior, in a punitive scenario represents a sanction.



Within the criminological currents there is a group of theories that positioned themselves as contemporary after the study of the delinquent was analyzed solely from a biological perspective, these theories reoriented criminology with a sociological twist. Their authors, Emilio Durkheim and Robert K. Merton, were situated in the structural functionalist theory of "anomie" and asserted three postulates:

The first points out, the causes of deviance should be sought neither in bioanthropological and natural factors, nor in pathological situations of social structure (Baratta, 2016). That is to say, there is no such thing as a good or bad man, but it is the environment that opens the doors to criminal behavior.

The second postulate rightly mentions that deviance is a normal phenomenon of any social structure (Baratta, 2016). By virtue of this, it is the social gear and everything that constitutes it that individually causes freedoms to translate into antisocial behaviors.

The last postulate says that only when certain limits have been exceeded, the phenomenon of deviance is negative for the existence and development of the social structure. (Baratta, 2016) . It is more than anything else a state of disorganization that converges with a collapse of the system of rules, in that sense the behavior loses value and in such evolution is placed in a situation of anomie.

Not necessarily the absence of rules is a chaotic scenario by itself, rather it is a necessary factor to create a balance and determine a socio-cultural development. It is necessary to have social chaos, new trends of antisocial behavior and new criminal schemes, as this allows us to understand the evolution of society and the consequences of one or several factors.

Durkheim interpreted the need for anomie as an opportunity to reorganize a society, from the premise that crime is an integral part of every healthy society (Durkheim, 1968 as cited in Baratta, 2016). Although it seems an ambiguous clash, in this case it does make sense that the absence of rules and disorganization creates a formal system of social order or reinterpretation of what is right or wrong.



It is important to recognize that all organized societies have crimes and ultimately it is strictly linked to the conditions of the collective context. Therefore, if we take a current problem such as the economic resource that is generated in digital platforms, where creators create their material and follow policies of use and with them it could be interpreted that they do not generate harm, although their content is mostly of hypersexualized dye. This is a condition representative of what we would call anomie because they exercise their freedom over the limits of supply and demand, however, therein converges chaos, since they as creators have no control over the behavior of their subscribers regarding redistribution and the extent to which this content reaches a population of people that the platforms do not allow by terms and conditions of age. However, having knowledge of the reach of the networks is the way in which behavior begins to deviate to generate a consequence such as violating established laws of the right to privacy and some kind of digital violence.

Merton takes up Durkheim's postulates and interprets deviance as an element of the social structure, normal as behavior in relation to the predominant rules and values. The social structure achieves a stimulating effect on individual behavior within the social context. In this sense, it can be analyzed that in a youth environment where values and idiosyncrasy are being formed according to the new trends of information and behavior, young people replicate with normality what is familiar to them, even if this does not represent positive and moral actions.

Another theory that allows explaining the *OnlyFans* phenomenon from the interactionist current is the social learning of Edwin H. Sutherland, this describes deviance as a socially learned behavior, resulting from associating with antisocial people instead of prosocial (Palacios, 2015).

According to the postulates pointed out by Sutherland; criminal behavior is learned, i.e. the acceptance or rejection by social norms and values is related to the interaction that the person has, it can result in pro or con. Therefore, the level of normalization and values that one has when faced with certain situations is in itself a reflection of the strongest bonds that one has and, based on this, the beliefs that one respects.



The second postulate mentions that criminal behavior is learned in the interaction with other individuals through a process of communication. For example, if the same symbols and culture behave in essence, a type of interpretation will be created that is only valid in that social group; the human being socializes from the active form of communication. Another important postulate is the one that mentions that the greatest learning load is received from intimate groups, since behavior, whether good or harmful, is mimicked.

When the behavior is learned, all those techniques for the commission of a behavior, quality, impulses, normalization and rationalization are absorbed in the subconscious. That is, if I am constantly exposed to perform a certain practice such as watching stories on social networks and in turn my close group likes and also consume and in turn follow the same type of content that will have an impact of acceptance and normalization that at first glance seems not to be dangerous, however, that has to do with the material that is consumed.

There are those who refer that people become criminals because they experience an excess of definitions that manifest the violation of the law. Likewise, it is expressed that social learning has diverse tendencies of frequency, duration and intensity. Within the learning process, the expressions of needs and values are manifested, this from the needs as a whole. Understanding that the subject acts on the environment and the environment on him, just as this influence is shared with people in the immediate environment and depending on how prosocial or dysfunctional will determine the consequences of the interaction.

It is worth mentioning a last theory in the same sense of interactionism that is explained from the social sphere. It is the symbolic interactionism of the authors G.H. Mead who established through his study that reality is a social construction that derives from the interpretation of signs and symbols. That is to say, reality is a symbolic construction, these interpretations have to do with a group of people who are subject to the same sense of things.

It should be noted that the deviant behavior from this approach tells us "is a construction more, in human interaction, expresses the will of the dominant to mark the



controls and destinies to men and is aimed at protecting the interest of the subject in particular or collective that defines them (Gonzalez and Sanchez, 2010).

From the previous point it can be inferred that antisocial behavior is understood as part of the interaction of a subject where his will redefines reality and establishes the concepts that are experienced day by day, being these positive or negative. In this modern context, a clear example is how technology, through social networks, triggers extreme levels of emotions to which one is exposed. The level of trust, recognition and importance found in these platforms has become an adopted social symbol, derived from the "likes" and links that are established through them.

If there is a normalization of how we are currently part of dynamic advertising, digital platforms, social networks and the aspirational phenomenon that is resignified by the photos and content of all people trying to show an ideal lifestyle, however, the need for reaffirmation and admiration of strangers becomes of value, the importance of interactions lies in the placebo of validation. The symbolism of feeling accepted from the lack and simulation of social networks is to show the most specific lack of the human being.

Therefore, it is very important to understand the degree of complexity of the interpretation of the environment, since the human being is a creator of symbols and knowledge constantly and through them determines what is acceptable or unpleasant to his own perception. Social links have to do with the association of symbols and level of popularity and the ways to become viral and popular no matter what one has to do.

Returning to the example of digital platforms, speaking of *OnlyFans* and promoting the concept of self-employment, both men and women have created a new system that allows them to generate earnings through their talents, the exhibition of their bodies and the variety of content they show in their profiles, thus generating a reinterpretation of a behavior rejected by past generations to a positive symbol and acceptance and normalization of pornography in an on-demand system. From this new concept of work, subscribing is even an act of support to the market of entrepreneurs in this sale of explicit material, therefore, understanding that meanings are part of social interaction, since the more people normalize



these activities, the more consumption ceases to be perceived as a socially rejected behavior that could trigger in a certain type of population, a latent consequence of antisocial behaviors of sexual type.

Symbolic interactionism touches the position of human interaction from the social self and self-consciousness that puts in potential hierarchy the way in which one interacts with others and how one reacts to certain behavior in order to act freely or not. So the way in which actions are regulated depends on the beliefs, interpretations and symbols that the person takes from the thinking of a group, in a few words if a group of people validate the same interpretation of certain behavior or activity this is accepted and becomes a social construct.

In the midst of a scenario where cases of sexual harassment, sexual abuse and attacks on modesty show alarming figures, the question inevitably arises about the role played by pornography consumption. The normalization of this consumption seems to exempt pornography platforms and sites from responsibility for the harm they are causing, while those who participate in it are held responsible for the violence that emanates from it. However, so far, no effective way has been found to combat this monopoly. It is emphasized that while some people find a sense of empowerment in creating content on platforms such as *OnlyFans* and may be seen as symbols of liberation, in reality, many are driven by economic motivations and lack of choice. Despite this "empowerment," content creators of this type of sexually explicit material are not truly free or masters of their privacy, as they continue to be the object of someone else's desires and of course, are subject to standards imposed by others, leading to a phenomenon of inherent violence.

In summary, the processes of human interaction are broken down into three phases: the manifestation of will, the objectification of ideas and the internalization of ideology. These steps generate an individual reality based on personal interpretations, the consequences of which are perceived as real by the same person. In this way, the creation of a belief system that labels as positive symbols those behaviors that somehow harm the common good, will become normal and eventually become accepted.



#### The relationship between digital platforms and sexual violence.

In terms of digitization, internet and use of technologies, the National Survey on Availability and Use of Information Technologies in Households in its latest presentation of results indicates that in Mexico there is a total estimate of 93,052,870 Internet users, in the segmentation of age groups, the second group comprising ages 12 to 17 years is represented by 13,018,559 corresponding to 14% of users, on the other hand the third group comprising ages 18 to 24 years is represented by 13,838,534 corresponding to 14.9%, which allows us to understand that the stage of greatest joint use of the Internet is the youth and young adult stage. Also, the states with the highest estimated use of the Internet on record are Mexico and CDMX with a joint figure of 21,148,501, which includes the capital of the country; subsequently we have Jalisco with 6,532,993; Veracruz with 5,488,146; Nuevo Leon with 4,847,555; Guanajuato with 4,363,690; finally, Puebla with a figure of 4,256,316 users (INEGI, 2022) (INEGI, 2022)...

With respect to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is important to note that there was an increase in the use of the internet, social networks and everything that involves digital platforms, since the confinement reinvented the way of working, communicating and interacting in the various social sectors, according to the above, there is a record of an increase in internet use of 7.4% at the end of the year 2022, which is indicated as the official end of the health contingency, taking into consideration that it was 76.4% at the end of 2019 and reaching 83.8% at the end of 2022. It is worth noting that an upward figure is also reflected in the use of smartphones of 79.2% in that same period, which is a clear example that technology was present in this time period in relation to the problem studied in this research. Finally, the use of the internet grew by 3% from 2020 to 2022 in relation to the use of social networks, it remained static in relation to the entertainment section and consumption of audiovisual material, with Facebook and WhatsApp being the networks with the highest consumption among young people aged 15 to 19 years, this may be a result of the way they interpret daily, the language of this group is potentiated by content of humorous topics and interest for them.



According to data from the 2023 National Survey of Victimization and Perception of Public Safety (ENVIPE), the incidence of crime is higher among men for most crimes. On the other hand, in sexual crimes, women are more vulnerable to be victims, since for every 10 sexual crimes committed against a woman, 1 is committed against a man (INEGI, 2023) According to the rates per 100,000 inhabitants, a figure of 28,701 crimes is estimated at the national level, where a subdivision of victims by sex is made, in which women have 3470 per 100,000 inhabitants, compared to men who only have 330 crimes, representing 9.5% in relation to women.

In this sense, it is also reflected that of these 3470 crimes, the number of reported rape is 156 crimes, which represents only 4.49% of the total statistics of sexual crimes (considering that there is a black number, i.e. that they are not reported to the authorities), and it is also identified that 3315 are diverse sexual crimes against women, which include sexual harassment, sexual intimidation, groping, exhibitionism and attempted rape.

Taking into account the above figures, if there is a high number of sexual crimes reported, with women being the most vulnerable and drawing a line of relationship where men are more likely to exercise their physical force against women, it is essential that sexual violence is addressed from the re-education of the male population.

It is emphasized how the digital platform *OnlyFans* has been adding subscribers in recent years, noting at the close of 2023 an amount of 238 million registered fans, in comparison with the figures of 2021 the increase has been approximately 27%. On the other hand, the accounts of content creators are equal to 3,182,000, with an increase compared to 2021 of 47.2%.

#### The role of pornography as a prelude to the normalization of sexual violence

Sexuality and its practices have always represented a taboo subject or subjective interpretation, what may be simply a form of expression can trigger a negative interpretation that falls on sexual behaviors.



Conventional pornography is based on printed images or films, distributed through illegal channels or by magazine distributors, with sales in sex shops or stores (Ballester *et.al.*, 2019). It is precisely the evolution of this style of pornography that has revolutionized the market as TRICs allow distributors to take over the smartphone market and be within the consumer's reach at all times.

The study of violent behaviors with respect to conventional pornography was stigmatized as harmful due to the various images or footage that were uploaded to illegal channels, magazines with sales in stores, in this plane its distribution and access was controlled since such exposure was of who could invest in it, with this conditioning its level of impact was limited. Evidently, as technology has advanced, products have been modified to be more attractive to the target market in order to consolidate a solid market, but vulnerable and with limited critical thinking.

In a market of superior consumption, it is fundamental the capacity to take its producers of pornographic material to the web sites even being illegal, for such situation its objective always was the diffusion and redistribution, from it derived consequences that today represent an innovation in the digital platforms at the moment of sharing this type of sexual explicit material, with a dye of regulation by means of the consent of creators and consumers.

This phenomenon has been renamed from a contemporary perspective as the new pornography since the standards of its production improved with respect to image quality, accessibility (advertising and exchange of money for service catalog), in addition to a free audience and contacts forced to a monthly payment through membership, which gives access to the material of a certain account without limitations of what is intended to observe and the most relevant feature lies to some extent in the anonymity, which has allowed the interaction of remote contact through mobile devices present a different context, comfortable and satisfactory to access prostitution.

For many years the presence of pornography has been hidden under the shield of anonymity, beyond reiterating a condition of rejection socially speaking, consumers were



normalizing this behavior, evidencing two factors of such positioning; the first has to do with capitalism and the second with the sexual standards indicated by the patriarchal system where women represent a scale of reification incessant. However, it was not possible to demonstrate its direct harmfulness of consumers as a risk of antisocial behaviors, however, the increase of its supply and demand is a reflection of the need that is generating a panorama of addiction and a sector of potential consumers have been adolescents, it is worth noting the impact it had on their interpersonal relationships. "New pornography can become the main source of sex education for adolescents" (Albury, 2014; Tallon Hicks, 2016) cited from (Ballester *et.al.*, 2019). The real challenge lies in the misinformation that these images and films translated, since they not only permeated gender and power stereotypes in their material, they positioned the objectification of women on a maximum scale and undoubtedly from this derived violent behaviors associated with machismo.

From a juvenile perspective (Owens, Behun Manning and Reid, 2012) quoted from (Ballester *et.al.*, 2019), pointed out that exposure to pornographic material at an early age generates beliefs that women are sexual objects, distorts the reality of sex, and in males with a tendency to sexual aggressiveness, this is increased. In this sense, demystifying the prohibition and taboo towards pornographic content, in order to channel the education of young people that is useful for the development of critical capacities in relation to pornography, so that they can naturally interpret such content as part of fiction.

With the above, it is understood that the evolution of pornography has been diversified by the market it pursues and technology has facilitated that now it is not only a material of access for a few, with mobile devices access is much easier. Some reports indicate that adolescents are large consumers of the Internet and their first contact with pornography is at an early age. The authors mention that:

Access to pornography is easy, free, fast, leaves no signal easy to trace if you know a little about the internet, offers varied and high quality images, the offer is unlimited and responds to the curiosity of adolescents. (Ballester *et.al.*, 2019).



This makes that for adolescents there are no barriers to consume explicit material and from the various sources where it is published, so with social networks that become allies of young people and aware that their use is almost inherent to the social development of adolescents it becomes a decision to expose themselves to the curiosity of such consumption. This is where the new models that are currently being proposed and what within the interaction becomes a fashion, such as the *OnlyFans* platform, begin.

# The access and consumption of pornography in the digital era and its normalization in contemporary society. Antisocial behaviors of a sexual nature

There are some reports that begin to distinguish cybercrimes within a Latin American space, in the report for the rapporteur on violence against women, Ms. Dubravka Simonovic, points out that cybercrime is a crime of sexual violence. Dubravka Simonovic points out that with respect to violent behaviors that occur on digital platforms there is a typification that already scales to crimes with a repeated trend on the network, the categories range from the analysis of extortion, harassment, cyberbullyng, control and manipulation of information, threats and dissemination of personal or intimate information without consent, abuse and sexual exploitation related to technologies. (Barrera and Rodriguez, 2017) . Each of these categories represents a violation of a person's privacy.

The best known antisocial behaviors of a sexual nature are those where the victim receives a direct aggression by his or her aggressor and are typified in the criminal codes of the states and municipalities of the country. Each one has sanctions established according to the physical damage and the degree of psychological affectation derived from the control exams performed on the affected party. However, in the case of conduct or aggressions of a sexual nature committed in cyberspace, the regulations have not yet made progress in sanctioning them; only some of the northern states of the country have integrated into their criminal codes the crimes related to cyberstalking and the leaking of multimedia content without the consent of the victims.



In relation to the Breviario de desarrollo normativo sobre la violencia digital, a comparative of the different penal codes that have a typification established for the crime against sexual intimacy, to mention some states where there have been emblematic cases of this type, CDMX contemplates in its article 181 Quintus, whoever records by means of video or audio, photographs or real or simulated images of intimate content without consent, as well as whoever exposes, disseminates, reproduces, exchanges, commercializes or distributes sexual content of a person without their consent will be subject to a penalty (Parra, 2021). Similar criteria are also established in the state of Oaxaca in Article 249 of the state penal code, and in Article 271 bis 5 of the Penal Code of the State of Nuevo León. These states are representative in matters of this type of crimes due to their media cases in terms of violence against women in digital media.

It should be noted that in modern times, being exposed to adult content has undergone an unprecedented transformation. Digital platforms such as *OnlyFans* have burst onto the scene prominently, offering users the ability to interact with explicit content in exchange for a subscription. However, this phenomenon is not without controversy, as excessive consumption of this type of content can lead to various antisocial behaviors.

As a starting point, understand that frequent consumption of content on platforms such as *OnlyFans* can contribute to the objectification and objectification of individuals, especially those engaged in producing this content. By focusing solely on physical appearance and sex appeal, consumers can lose sight of the humanity and dignity of those behind the screen, thus fostering a superficial view of interpersonal relationships.

In addition, excessive consumption of adult content online can fuel misogynistic habits, attitudes and behaviors. The normalization of extreme sexualization and commodification of the female body can reinforce harmful stereotypes about women, thus perpetuating a culture of gender inequality and violence. This phenomenon can manifest itself in everyday life through sexist comments, online harassment and degrading behavior towards women.



One of the main concerns is the impact on interpersonal relationships. Excessive consumption of sexualized content on platforms such as *OnlyFans* can lead to objectification of individuals and a distorted perception of relationships. Users may develop unrealistic expectations about sex and relationships, which can negatively affect their ability to make meaningful emotional connections in the real world.

Another aspect to consider is the impact repeated consumption of this explicit content may have on individuals' mental health. Unlimited access to sexualized images can contribute to the development of sexual addictions, desensitization to real intimacy and difficulties in establishing meaningful relationships outside the virtual world. In addition, the feeling of body dissatisfaction and constant comparison to the unrealistic standards of beauty promoted on these platforms can lead to self-esteem problems and eating disorders.

Ultimately, excessive consumption of content on platforms such as *OnlyFans* can alienate people from their social environment and negatively affect their interpersonal relationships. Obsession with sexualized content can lead to loss of interest in social and recreational activities, as well as difficulties in establishing and maintaining meaningful emotional connections with others. It can be seen as a social consequence that will contribute to isolation and loneliness, negatively affecting the individual's mental health and overall well-being. In addition, what within the anonymity and ease of access to explicit content online will encourage compulsive and addictive behaviors.

It is important to recognize that the problem lies not in the existence of platforms such as *OnlyFans* per se, but in the way they are used and the impact they have on individual and social behavior in young people. It is essential to promote sexual and digital education to encourage responsible consumption of online content and to help users develop healthy and respectful relationships in both the virtual and real world.

For example, according to the definition pointed out by Lourdes V. Barrera (2017) regarding unauthorized access and access control, are those attacks to a person's accounts or devices in an unauthorized manner, this may involve unauthorized obtaining of information or access restrictions.



Another action that represents a risk is the control and manipulation of the information in the network, this derived from obtaining information from a person that implies the loss of control of the information and its modification for specific purposes. This form of manifesting an apparently non-harmful behavior can evolve into harassment, since the purposes for which information is stolen and manipulated represent a high rate of possible harassment and blackmail. In addition, if an attempt is made to obtain some economic benefit, it can be promoted through threats and extortion, which already represent a violation of the law.

On the other hand, Lourdes V. Barrera (2017) expresses the term Outding as the act of disseminating intimate or sexual content without consent; use of information without consent, disclosure of private information; non-consensual pornography; disclosure of privacy. (p. 22) is then this abuse and exploitation of sexual type related to ICTs a manifestation of antisocial behaviors that in recent years have gained strength and that silently hit the normality of the common good, putting women and minors as potential victims.

It is relevant to mention the vulnerable groups that are more likely to experience situations where their privacy is violated, this is the case of women who share messages, videos or images both in encrypted chats and on platforms open to users freely and where, in order to increase their level of audience, they use hashtags and keywords that do not necessarily reach an informed or aware public, rather all the published material is exposed to individuals who make inappropriate use of such content. Although revictimization processes should never be encouraged, the awareness of the dangers of content shared by digital media and the process of virality is not a controllable event and that eventually makes the author of the photo, video or audio visual material vulnerable, especially if they are publications of sexually explicit content.



Normalization and behavior: How sexually explicit content influences young people's antisocial behaviors.

The growth of platforms such as *OnlyFans* has raised specific concerns about their impact on 15-18 year olds. This age group, in the midst of emotional and social development, may be particularly vulnerable to the negative influences of online adult content consumption.

The risks presented by such easy and unrestricted access to sexually explicit material on such a platform is directed at adolescents in this age bracket where they are curious and want to experiment with their sexuality, but consumption of this type of content can distort their understanding of healthy relationships and consent. They may develop unrealistic expectations about sex and relationships, which can negatively affect their emotional development and social interactions.

Young people between 15 and 18 years seek to have a clear idea of their sexual concerns and therefore explore their sexuality through this content, so that pornography in any of its presentations and provided that it is freely accessible, is not only used as a personal pastime, but can exert a distorted educational role on sexuality (Mora *et.al.*, 2023). Emphasizing what the authors mention, it will be understood that in youth environments there is a latency in the risk of victimization and exploration.

Therefore, young people can be targeted by online predators who take advantage of their curiosity and vulnerability. The normalized consumption of content on platforms such as *OnlyFans* can expose adolescents to dangerous situations, as grooming which is to formulate a link from an adult to a minor in order to gain their trust for a specific purpose, usually of sexual connotation and on the other hand, sextortion which roughly refers to a cyber blackmail suffered by a person for having explicit material that does not want to be shown, both behaviors aimed at the victim can have devastating consequences for their emotional and physical well-being.

It is essential that parents, educators and society in general address these concerns proactively. This includes providing comprehensive sex education that addresses responsible consumption of online content, promoting open and honest dialogue about sexuality and



consent, and monitoring Internet and social media use. In addition, it is crucial to provide young women with healthy and constructive alternatives to meet their needs for exploration and social connection.

From its theoretical perspective, Criminology, from its interactionist current, states that the behavior of the individual in a social sphere is linked to the weight of the links that surround it, i.e., the environment will have an impact on behavioral formation. In the specific case of access and consumption of explicit material for adults, the phenomenon can be explained from the socialization with peers, especially from the primary and secondary nucleus, where especially in adolescence a significant influence is exerted on attitudes, beliefs and behaviors, being validation and admiration the incentive for each action. Thus, the normalization process stems from peer socialization, where it is enough for a young person in the group to show how interesting such consumption is for the rest to replicate the behavior and for mutual reinforcement to arise.

Likewise, from Albert Bandura's point of view, the social mold is learned from the observation of the behavior of others and the consequences of the same, that is why in the age ranges between 15 and 18 years, where adolescence and the beginning of adulthood is present in these young people to have access or seek access to other young people to carry out the consumption of sexually explicit material, especially if they perceive that there are no tangible consequences of such acts, since in this tribe of young people do not consider it wrong and thus consolidates the structure of normalization of behavior.

According to Save the Children's Director of Child Policy and Awareness Raising, the danger is not that pornography is viewed, but that their desire is being built on unrealistic, violent and unequal bases marked by fiction. She points out in the report that the danger "is that they grow up thinking that their consent, desires and preferences, or those of others, do not have to be taken into consideration" (Save the children, 2020), in itself, of all the information that young people get, whether fictional, graphic, sexualized or violent, without a critical sense of cognition, will be adapted and normalized to the immediate environment and these beliefs can escalate to thinking that it is okay and normal.



#### Conclusions

Antisocial behaviors derived from interaction with sexually explicit content on digital platforms such as *OnlyFans* cause behavioral manifestations that impact the order of social interaction of young people. The normalization that this consumption is part of the digital era promotes among young people a generational validation that contributes to replicate the behavior until it is accepted and promoted among them.

As is well known at present, the way in which young people configure relationships —especially adolescents— is through social networks where they pursue social validation and admiration from their peers, in effect, the interaction, interpretation of what is accepted, the coexistence with the peer group and the phenomenon that can be lived within the sphere of social networks, reformulates in young people their level of awareness regarding their acts where the interpretation is that if there is no physical damage, they are not really incurring in a fault to the social norm, there is no awareness that the redistribution of content through other digital platforms in case of being detected by the affected party, such acts would have a legal consequence.

Also, the violation of policies and restrictions on access to these platforms, together with the lack of adequate education on the responsible use of digital technologies, further aggravates the associated risks. It is crucial to promote comprehensive education that addresses both sexuality and responsible online behavior, this in order to mitigate the negative effects of this consumption and prevent future consequences to mental health, social welfare of young people and the spread of anti-social behaviors of a sexual nature.

Ultimately, the social dynamics of young people among their peer group and the interpretation of "everyone does it" impacts on whether they seek to consume the explicit material on the platform, through a subscription or on other networks that upload content derived from it.

Through the analysis of available information it is established that indeed the access and consumption of sexually explicit content on digital platforms such as *OnlyFans* contributes to the normalization of sexual violence in young people aged 15 to 18 years and



that, in addition, this phenomenon often derives from the interaction between the peer group. Thus, normalization generates the necessary approval, so that accessing and consuming is so acceptable among young people.

In addition, from the reinterpretation of symbols, the sexual explicit content of digital platforms such as "OnlyFans" resignifies it not as pornography but as freedom of expression. The fact of consuming content illegally or in violation of established policies contributes to the proliferation of antisocial behavior. If this consumption trend persists, it could have repercussions on the sexual behaviors of young people in the process of maturing and searching for identity, as well as on the exploration of their sexual development.

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he correlation between the available data and the criminological theories of social behavior mentioned with respect to the social environment of an individual and his or her development in the environment, in addition to the new digital challenges that can be translated into sexual behaviors that pose a range of cybercrime that has not yet been explored.

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