

The purpose of this study is to investigate whether pornography users motivation to engage in pornography use is guided by their need to regulate attachment emotions and to fulfill intimacy needs in lieu of turning to their spouse. This study seeks to investigate the extent to which the influence of attachment, intimacy and pornography use effects marital satisfaction by examining romantic attachment and intimacy as antecedent factors in pornography use. Utilizing hierarchical multiple regression, the four variables will be employed using a cross-sectional research design in an online sample of married pornography users. The following variables are included within this study: romantic attachment: anxious, avoidant (IV), which will be measured by the Emotionally Close Relationships – Revised Form (ECR-R), intimacy (IV), measured by the Personal Assessment of Intimacy in Relationships (PAIR), pornography use (IV) measured by the Cyber-Pornography Use Inventory (CPUI), marital satisfaction (DV) measured by the Burns Relationship Satisfaction Scale (RSAT), sexual shame measured by the Kyle Inventory of Sexual Shame (KISS) and a demographic questionnaire.

This research study should further expand awareness to the influence of attachment and intimacy on pornography use and its effects on perception of marital satisfaction as well as define the significance pornography use has on the relational functioning between couples.

The first question of this study will examine the relationship between attachment, intimacy, pornography use and marital satisfaction.

Hypotheses 1, 2 and 3. It is hypothesized anxious attachment predicts marital satisfaction (H1a) and avoidant attachment predicts marital satisfaction (H1b). It is hypothesized anxious attachment predicts intimacy (H2a) and avoidant attachment predicts intimacy (H2b). It is also hypothesized that pornography use predicts marital satisfaction for those with anxious attachment (H3a) and avoidant attachment (H3b).

The second research question seeks to determine in what ways does intimacy influence marital satisfaction among pornography users with insecure attachment.

Hypotheses 4. It is hypothesized that intimacy mediates the relationship between anxious attachment and marital satisfaction (H4a) and between avoidant attachment and marital satisfaction (H4b).

The third research question seeks to determine whether pornography is used to regulate attachment emotions among pornography users with insecure attachment.

Hypotheses 5 and 6. It is predicted that pornography use moderates the relationship between attachment and intimacy for those with anxious attachment (H5a) and avoidant attachment (H5b). It is also predicted pornography use will account for significant variance in marital satisfaction above that of anxious attachment (H6a) and above that of avoidant attachment (H6b).