Proposal

Title- The Influence of Self-Esteem on the Relationship Between Perceived Addiction to Pornographic Materials and Spiritual Doubt

Program of Study- Developmental Psychology

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Abstract

An examination of perceived addiction of pornographic material and spiritual doubt was conducted in order to assess the potential relationship between the two factors. This examination specifically considered the possibility of self-esteem as a moderating factor in the relationship between perceived addiction and spiritual doubt. While previous findings in this area of study have shown a correlation between perceived addiction and spiritual doubt, self-esteem has been found to correlate with perceived addiction and spiritual doubt separately; additionally, the previous findings did not address the possibility of self-esteem as a moderator, therefore, necessitating this study (Greenway, Milne, & Clarke, 2010; Ano & Pargament, 2013). In order to address this gap in literature, this study considered self-esteem as a primary factor that affected the outcome of the potential relationship between perceived addiction and spiritual doubt. If a person’s self-esteem is high his or her rate of compulsion to view pornographic material was hypothesized to moderate his or her self-esteem, thus creating a low rate of doubt. In this study, the responses of 376 participants consisting of 207 males, 165 females, and 4 identifying as “other”, all of whom have viewed pornography at least once in the last month, were analyzed for
the potential relationship between perceived addiction and spiritual doubt in order to determine
the influence of self-esteem. The results from this study were statistically significant, as was the
correlation between perceived addiction and spiritual doubt. However, the moderator, self-
esteem, did not have a statistically significant effect on the relationship, indicating that self-
esteem operates independently from the perceived compulsion and spiritual doubt motivation by
the viewing of pornographic materials.