

## How Sexual Violence Is Portrayed through Social Media

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### Abstract

This research paper investigates the portrayal of sexual violence within a social media framework and context. The subject is examined both using literature which has already been released about the subject to generate a contextual background regarding the subject as well as provide information which has already been investigated. This has been divided into two themes which demonstrate that exposure to sexual content did not result in significant detrimental effects in between those who were and those who were not exposed. In addition, the next study presented the fact that that is might a possibility that exposure to sexually violent content may help people process the information in a safe manner to allow them to deal with the real thing later if they ever encounter it. The results of the studies state that social media did have a way of morphing the perceptions of its users through an extension of the influence people exert on each other. A more thorough study is needed, which encapsulates many platforms that are available on the platform in the contemporary period.

**Keywords:** sexual, violence, social media, sexual content

### 1. Introduction

Social media is an integral part of contemporary society. While most commonly socialisation and related media used to refer to the physical mediums which were utilised by people to communicate and interact with each other on a forum, the definition has evolved quite a bit since then. In the current setting, the prevalence of affordable and reliable computational devices and ready access to the internet has resulted in a mirroring. This mirroring consists of the physical environment being recreated and, in many ways, has it been enhanced through the utilisation of the technical aspects which computers present. This includes the usage of audio and visual graphics as a means of presenting more information in a far more engaging and comprehensive manner. This means that social media can be considered in some ways, to be an extremely engaging and more versatile forum for discussion than the real-life counterpart of it can ever be (Kaplan & Haenlein, 2010).

This is especially pertinent as the social media platform also offers an increased range and diversity in the number and the types of participants that may interact with each other (see Younes & Altakhaineh, 2022). This is due to the wide reach of the internet-based communication which allows people from around the globe to interact with each other, something which they may not have been able to do before in such a refined and ease of access exploratory method. This platform of social media has been used by people as a means of interacting with each other and discussing topics or just staying touch in general. This paper will specifically be dealing with one aspect of the many interactions that happen within the social media forums. This will create more focus on the topic and will allow for the paper to avoid becoming over generalised due to the extensive nature of the topics and subjects that are discussed on an online forum Kietzmann, Hermkens, McCarthy, & Silvestre, 2011).

The paper will be specifically dealing with the portrayal of sexual violence through social media. Sexual violence is a

very wide time that is utilised to refer to crimes and or incidence that are sexual in nature or are related to sex in one way or another (see Barakat & Al-Momani, 2024). The term itself is non-legal and very vague and all-encompassing. It is usually utilised in cases where the exact information may be not known except that there may be an aspect of sex involved. It may also be used as a means of using general linguistics to refer to the crime due to the sensitive nature of the topic. Sexual violence in general terms is used differently by different groups of people. As such, it is pertinent to state that this term does not have a set definition aside from the generally agreed upon the statement as mentioned above. This will mean that different people will present different perspectives in response to the same terms used (Scully, 2013).

This will be created in the following structure. First, a systematic literature shall be conducted regarding the subject by utilising scholarly articles which have been published as a means of presentencing information which has already been studied an examined to provide a general background. This will also provide the perspectives and investigations of other scholars. This shall be followed with a methodology section which will extensively demonstrate the method which will be used as a means of carrying out the endeavour of this paper which is the analysis of the portrayal of sexual violence within social media. The methodology represents an important part of the paper because the methods which are employed to conduct an endeavour can define the parameters of what will be the outcome and the framework of the data which shall be gathered (Kumar, 2019).

The next section will consist of presenting the results which were extracted from the scholarly articles which were consulted for information and were pertinent to the topic at hand. The discussion section shall be. Next, it shall provide context towards the results which have been generated and use data which has been gathered to generate context. This context can then be used as a basis for implications and what the results might hold. The final chapter of this research paper shall consist of the Conclusions and Recommendations section. This section will present a dual purpose as the name of it implies. Firstly, a summarisation and a synthesis of the information which has been presented so far in this paper shall be presented as a means of increasing comprehension and secondly to provide recommendations for other scholars for use in their own investigative endeavours (Fraenkel, Wallen, & Hyun, 2011).

## **2. Literature**

This section will consist of a systematic literature review that shall be conducted regarding the chosen topic. A literature review represents a vital part of a research paper because it allows for the presentation of information from other published scholarly articles as a means of providing additional background knowledge and generating a further context for the chosen topic. The literature review will also demonstrate a solid understanding of the topic using previously released literature and its assessment. The use of a literature review can also have an imperative function of the research paper, as far as the framework of the work to be done is concerned. This means that the information which is going to be presented here can have an effect in moulding the next chapters based on what will be retrieved from the scholarly articles (Hart, 2018).

Some of the ways in which this can occur are the presentation of new facts or perspectives that may have previously been ignored. It can, furthermore, allow for the inculcation of perspectives or information bits which may have previously been relegated as being unimportance or not having a significant enough presence to be considered for investigation. The literature review can also present information which can decrease incidents of repeating exercises which may have previously already been conducted to avoid redundancy. The literature review can also assist in the generation of a model which can allow one to determine what was lacking in previous studies and thus what additional recommendations or guides the literature presents can be added into future studies (Fink, 2019).

The conduction of literature review involves the retrieval of pertinent scholarly articles for reviewing them. There are two main types of databases which may be consulted in this endeavour. The two types of databases which may be consulted for relevant scholarly articles physical and digital databases. The database type which shall be inquired for the purposes of this research articles will be purely digital based due to several reasons which result in the digital version presenting a more advantageous and feasible method of conducting this endeavour. Inquiring a physical database for information can involve going through a large assortment of articles which is both laborious and exhausting. It also required a significant amount of time to be dedicated towards the task which would be unfeasible for the purposes of this study. Additionally, physical databases are being utilised less frequently and are being phased out (Jesson, Matheson, & Lacey, 2011).

As such, the articles which are pertinent will be less likely to present in physical databases, and that information which is available may be deprecated or outdated. Digital databases, on the other hand, present a significant advantage over physical medium based databases. One of the most significant advantages that are apparent is the delegation for sorting and retrieving data to the computer system. The computational device is capable of sorting through a countless number of scholarly articles and scan them for information and then retrieve the ones which the user is inquiring about. Digital databases also sort the papers by a further categorisation process that involves the use of keywords which pertain to the content of the paper. This can allow for the usage of specific terms to access relevant information. Furthermore, digital

databases are the type that is increasingly being utilised by scholars due to the versatility that they offer (Ganann, Ciliska, & Thomas, 2010).

This literature review shall be conducted through the usage of specific parameters to ensure that the content which is retrieved is both relevant and current to the topic being investigated. The specifics of the search can be mentioned within the table below. The search terms define the keywords and or phrases that are utilised when searching the electronic database. The year range illustrates the range of years which will be used when searching for the relevant literature to filter out results with deprecated or outdated information. The results returned denotes the number of articles which were retrieved from the initial search while the results chosen to represent the final number of articles which were chosen for the purposes of the review.

Table 1. Terminologies used for searching

Search terms	year range	results returned	results chosen
social media sexual violence, sexual violence portrayal on social media, sexual violence and social media	2010-2019	654,000	10

### 2.1 No Significant Changes

Ybarra, Strasburger, & Mitchell (2014) undertook a study which was meant to analyse the portrayal the sexuality in social media, this was not entirely limited to sexual violence only but also included general sexual content across the different mediums. This serves an important function because it serves to provide a wider context under which the analysis of the subject can take place. This is because the analysis of a subject in an isolated environment without the context of what is commonly associated with it serves to alienate it from its natural context and setting. When combining the contextual details with that of the subject, it becomes much easier to have a more objective and nuanced view of the subject. As such, this paper has taken an adequate approach in presenting the context of the study without having the extended parameters become too bearing. It would have resulted in the study becoming too unfocused and broad otherwise.

The paper cites that emerging research has indicated that there may be a link, association in how sexual content portrayal in media can affect the behaviour of people, especially those still developing physically and psychologically. The paper states the sexual educational content is greatly limited and that most sex education consists of the abstinence-only approach, which has largely proven to be ineffective. The paper states that as such, media, has become the major source of sexual information for a significant amount of people. This sexual information also consists of the portrayal of sexual violence. The portrayal of sexual content within the media has grown to a significant degree, progressively through the passing years. This has, in general, led to the increase of sexual media portrayal and ergo, sexual violence portrayal (see also Reichert & Lambiase, 2013).

The researchers conducted a close-ended survey which was meant to analyse the exposure of people to the sexual content portrayal in media. The results of the survey indicated that internet exposure to sexual content, including sexual violence portrayal, was greatly limited on the internet according to the participants of the surveys responses. It demonstrated that a sexual violence portrayal in social media was greatly limited compared to the magnitude of exposure that occurred within other mediums such as videogames, music and even more traditional media like televisions and movies. The research then proceeded to compare the data of different populations who were and who were not exposed to sexual violence portrayals through various mediums. The results were indicative of the fact that exposure to sexual content and even sexual violence from the portrayal in different mediums like social media on the internet were not marked with increased sexual disorders or incidents of assaults or sexual based violence (Zillmann, Bryant, & Huston, 2013).

The research indicated that the prevalence of sexual content including sexual violence on all mediums was so common that it was almost impossible for any person who uses these mediums for any purpose to be able to avoid exposure to these materials. The research also pointed out a correlation in the decrease in the overall number of risky sexual behaviours, such as unsafe sex practises like not using a condom or having multiple sexual partners. The research concludes that exposure to sexual material, including sexual violence portrayed on social media, is not inherently harmful or bad in any shape or form. The research paper recommends a more nuanced and subtle approach to the topic to generate a better understanding of sexuality and sexual content, including sexual violence in general (Strasburger, Jordan, & Donnerstein, 2010).

### 2.2 Different Outcomes

Salter (2013) presents a study dealing with the different aspects of justice and revenge in the context of social media and the portrayal of sexual violence within it. As sexual violence is a considered to be major offence and has continued to be throughout history to varying degrees, the paper presents that there is a strong sense of justice and revenge tied towards that

type of violence. This is in line with the traditional process that occurs when an actor within a society breaks or violates certain universally agreed upon social contracts or agreements. Then as a response to this transgression action is taken against the part in either an arranged or organised fashion like in the case of justice or unorganised un-agreed upon methods such as revenge or vigilantism. The paper demonstrates that within the social media circle, there has been an evolution in the way sexual violence is dealt with in comparison to traditional mediums such as news channels or newspapers.

The paper cites that the prevalence of users within the social media platform allows them to be able to post content for people to view without major scrutiny about what they are posting aside from the guidelines and rules that may govern the social media platform and are enforced by them. This is further exacerbated by the fact that these users can be present in different forums or platforms which would each be host to their own regulations which may mean there would be several discrepancies in regard to the type of content that may be posted across the different platforms. As such the level of sexual violence that is portrayed on different social media platforms is going to be greatly diversified both in the amount of content that is present and the type that is related to it (Patton et al., 2014).

The paper notes that there has been an increase in the number of contents related to sexual violence within the contemporary period. The paper demonstrated that people have started posting sexual violence accusations and events in general on social media. This has led to the creation of a sort of vigilante group within the social media platforms which seek to act in order to rectify the supposed wrongdoings that have been allegedly carried out by the perpetrator. This has resulted in the actions which are carried out within the digital platforms having consequences in a real-life setting. This is because it has been observed that people on these platforms have taken the initiative to act upon the accusations of sexual violence posted on social media by assuming it to be true. This is, however, not the case with all the people who encounter this material (Bull, Levine, Black, Schmiege, & Santelli, 2012).

This is because the range of users which are found within social media platforms vary in their personalities and knowledge and experience. There will be, however, a significant overlap in the type of personalities that will be engaging in the platform of social media in the first place. It has been observed that a significant number of users will take action in both the virtual platform as well as the physical world if they access to the elements which might possibly allow them to cause the detrimental outcome to take place against the accused person. This has thus resulted in users who have been accused of sexual violence often becoming the target of online harassment of social media platforms due to the perception that the allegations that are levelled against them are true. It is important to note that these people have not been convicted yet while they are subject to the harassment process (Evers, Albury, Byron, & Crawford, 2013).

In several cases, there has even been the case of "swatting", which is an informal term used to refer to the practice of calling the police or SWAT on the location of a person by making a claim of an element or danger or something similar. The calls commonly present scenarios of extreme distress or dangers which would prompt the law enforcement agencies to respond with tactical action. As a result, many people have been the subjects of raids which have been conducted on them by the police due to callers making claims of there being danger present at the premises. This has caused not only untold amounts of damage to personal property as well as several personal injuries that have occurred to the victims of the swatting incidents who have had been handled roughly, physically by the police (Enzweiler, 2014).

There is another type of outcome that can occur in the realms of digital social media platforms. It is the prevalence of the practice of "doxing", which is an informal term used to refer to the leakage of personally identifiable or sensitive information regarding an individual on the internet for everyone to see. This sensitive information has the potential to be greatly misused and exploited by those who may hold a grudge against the person whose information has been leaked. It may even be used by people as a means of simply entertaining themselves by causing distress to another person. Common tactics aside from "swatting" as described above include the usage of the address to order large, expensive orders of food from establishments to incur distress and unease in the victim. The personal information may also be used by an individual to harass other people who may be related to the individual accused of sexual violence on another person (Stein, 2016).

### **3. Methodology**

This section of the research paper will consist of outlining the methodology which shall be undertaken in the endeavour of investigating the chosen topic. The methodology that is chosen for undertaking a task represents an important factor in a research paper. This is because the method can define the overall structure of the operation as well as the factors which shall be taken into action and consideration for the duration of the study. There exist multiple methods which may be utilised for the creation of a research paper. Each method has specific characteristics which serve as the basis of definition for it. Ergo, each method will consist of different parameters and aspects through which the task will be conducted, and thus, a consistent, unique perspective will be offered by each of these methodologies (Terrell, 2012).

In this regard, it can be stated that each research method is thus neutral or cannot be defined as being inherently wrong or right, that is of course if the method is logically consistent and coherent. The different methods do, however, vary in their performance based on how well they manage to be aligned in terms of the characteristics of the paper itself as well as the

research requirements that present themselves. Ergo, choosing the right type of research methodological approach for this research paper is an imperative task that will have to be undertaken assiduously. Also, to take into regard when choosing a methodology is the context in which the task will be undertaken. Each methodology will have specific requirements that will be in line with the characteristics of the respective methodology. As such, it would be pertinent to ensure that the requirements of each methodology which are necessary for them to be undertaken can be catered to an acceptable degree (Coleman, 2013).

Failure to do this may result in either the methodology approach being applied in an incorrect manner, an inadequate manner or complete failure. Each outcome is detrimental to the scope and content of the research as they can introduce detrimental elements. The application of a methodology in an incorrect manner would result in a set of results that may be completely unusable or provide data which would not match the parameter as required by the methodology. As such, the information retrieved, and the results would suffer from the garbage in garbage out problem. Undertaking the methodology in an inadequate manner would result in the standards of the methodology not being considered the retrieval of sub-par, inaccurate data that may lack the special specificity that may have been required in the first place. Complete failure would be a total omission of the approach and return no useful information, representing significant wasted resources that would have been better utilised elsewhere (Robson, 2011).

The methodology which shall be chosen for this research paper shall utilise a secondary mixed interpretative approach. This methodology has been chosen specifically because of the topic at hand has specific characteristics which would be best handled by this approach. This is also to facilitate the limited number of resources that are available for this research paper. In this way, the research methodology matches the context of the setting it is being used in. A secondary approach represents an ideal approach for this data because the data which is to be collected deals with social media. Social media represents a very large circle of users. These enormous amounts of users are spread out over several different platforms, each of which has their own environments. These environments dictate the culture and type of interaction that takes place at those digital venues (Creswell, 2011).

Given many social media websites and platforms, it would not be feasible given the resources allocated to this paper to conduct a primary approach. This is because it would involve a long-term search period for the different types of social media platforms, and this would require significantly more resources and time. While there exist some large social media platforms which hold many of the users, there also exist countless other forms of social media platforms that are more moderate in their popularity. Even further still as the nicer platforms and additionally there exist even more niche and underground forums that may be generally unknown to the public aside from specific groups of people who frequent them. Conducting a primary approach on all these platforms would be unfeasible, the conduction of the primary approach in even the most popular forums would present a problematic approach (Bonsón, Torres, Royo, & Flores, 2012).

Due to the reasons, a secondary approach would be best suited for the task that is to be undertaken. This is because it can allow the paper to utilise the endeavours of investigation of other scholars as a means of not only extracting data but allow increasing the overall perspectives that can be found related to the chosen topic. A secondary approach also will not require a major amount of taking to be taken regarding creating an ethics policy or dealing with ethics in general. This is because the data that will be extracted from the scholarly articles will already have been subject to these requirements. However, where identifiable data is present which has the possibility of causing negative, detrimental or potentially harmful effects on an individual, group or people or organisations, specifics will be omitted (Kietzmann et al., 2011).

A mixed approach is best suited towards this research paper because utilising either of these approaches alone would greatly limit the scope of the research paper while reducing the type of information from scholarly articles that would be possible to analyse. The topic to be investigated represents an extremely complex conundrum and thus requires a more nuanced and holistic approach to better analyse the data available about it. As such, the quantitative side would provide trackable parameters which can help in the generation of trends and or pattern recognition. The quantitative side can provide more experiential data which can take the human factor into account as well as factors that cannot be easily quantified or done so with extreme accuracy (Hanna, Rohm, & Crittenden, 2011). The retrieval of the literature will be conducted through a process that is like the one described in the previous section of the literature review.

#### **4. Results**

This section shall consist of the results that were derived from the scholarly articles that were chosen for the purposes of this research paper. The results will be presented in an organised fashion that shall utilise different themes. These themes are based on the common elements that can be gleaned from the articles which were investigated. The usage of themes represents an important factor because it not only highlights the perspective approaches that are common between the different papers but also elements which might be universal. In this section, the analysis of an interpretation of the data will not be presented. That will be conducted within the next section; this section is solely dedicated to presenting the data as it is while organisation it into different section as a means of increasing comprehensibility. The results presented within in research articles may also be liable to ignore, omit or not recognise certain themes, elements of factors that were presented in the study unintentionally.

#### 4.1 Perception Control and Influence

Facebook, Twitter, and Reddit are the absolute most established web-based social networking stages starting today (Brügger, 2015; Hanna et al., 2011). Regardless of confronting significant challenge in the present period, they stay probably the most well-known as of this composition (Kim, Moon, & Iacobucci, 2019). Sexual Violence depiction in general as a rule is on the decrease on each of the three stages, though previously, fragment gatherings existed which utilised the stage as a method for causing a response among the clients; with the advancement of increasingly far reaching and severe substance control arrangements, the general practice has enormously declined in general. This sexual viciousness usually comprised of clients posting stun content which included however was not restricted to gut and mutilation related substance. Butchery and mutilation substance comprises of material which incorporates human viscera and amazingly substantial harm in both perpetual and non-lasting wounds. This drove the exploited people to ending up incredibly stunned and sickened as what they encountered was significantly novel from their regular day to day existence, the material being structured around horribleness and dreariness was created to extricate responses from clients (Craker & March, 2016). While the practices are yet proceeded somehow, the broad control on these stages has prompted a general reduction in badgering when all is said in done. This can be ascribed to a few reasons, one of them being the huge measure of shock that was produced by clients (Gillespie, 2018), which eventually boosted the organisations to make an increasingly deliberate methods for enabling clients to report culpable substance and afterward having the control group erase it.

While in enormous part the stun material has by and large vanished from the site, sexual savagery in general is yet present inside these stages. For instance, lately, a development called MeToo rose which went about as a solidarity development which was intended to stress the nearness of sexual viciousness that happened inside regular day to day existence. This was most dynamic on twitter, where individuals used the hashtag #metoo as a method for labelling their presents and relating them on different posts of a similar material (Lee, 2018). I was seeded by claims of lewd behaviour against Harvey Weinstein, which inevitably prompted other individuals participate and giving their own records of being explicitly bugged or struck. This development quickly advanced and developed as different well-known characters become embroiled in the development of having performed strikes of provocations of a sexual sort (Jaffe, 2018). A lot of acclaimed famous people were named and wound up scandalous because of this development, a significant case of this is Aziz Ansari (Fileborn & Phillips, 2019). Be that as it may, as the creators of the previously mentioned paper articulate, the development, which at first started with goals of featuring sexual unfortunate behaviour, turned out to be rapidly off followed from the first thought, as individuals kept on labelling episodes as sexual offense which were either overstated, false, or legitimately strange or mislabelled.

This exhibits the depiction of sexual brutality in web-based social networking, can show in different structures. As the initial segment of this sub-segment illustrates, sexual savagery as carnage, mutilation or for the most part stunning material was utilised to get clueless exploited people to respond and sicken them. This unmistakably a negative result for the clients, while simultaneously, these stages are being utilised as a method for open correspondence. The #metoo development for instance, filled in as a significant instance of sexual savagery depiction being utilised a method for featuring and bringing consideration towards an enormous scale issue of inappropriate behaviour and attack that was happening on a huge scale. Through the case, a few significant and persuasive individuals were brought to equity and unfortunate casualties were given the certainty they expected to come and talk about their experiences. Thusly, the receptiveness and straightforwardness of the correspondence that happened in these issues; at last enabled unfortunate casualties to be in more noteworthy control and to look for equity for an inappropriate doing submitted towards in. In this case, the nearness of sexual viciousness or delineation, or notices of it filled a productive need in battling against genuine and genuine maltreatment that happens. This can be viewed as a significant move from a progressively more seasoned perspective, where the unfortunate casualties would be accused of occurrences of sexual viciousness, that, or avocations would be accommodated the episode.

Sexual Violence depiction has had a significant noteworthy impact by being accessible via web-based networking media, to some degree, its transparency has enabled a few gatherings or specialties to rise which were previously either underground or didn't exist. One such perspective is that of the BDSM (Bondage, Discipline, Dominance, and Submission) development. The term, albeit very wide and covering a scope of sexual interests, is essentially connected towards sexual practices or acts which are considered as being fierce (Randall & McKee, 2017). The significant qualification to build up for this situation, is the nearness of a consensual understanding between the, at least two accomplices who share in the demonstration. These gatherings do and routinely offer substance, in every single advanced configuration (sound, visual, and literary), which can be considered as being explicitly rough. The principal fascination of this specialty is the very part of explicitly degenerate conduct which frequently includes the punishment of controlled brutality on each other through an assortment of methods. These incorporate, yet are not restricted to, subjugation and choking, electric shock of different body parts, marking (to leave blemishes on the body), and cutting, scarring, and suffocation (Bauer, 2018). Substance, for example, this is consistently shared on both twitter as it can consider simple categorisation of substance that clients can

without much of a stretch peruse. Facebook as well, has a huge network following of gatherings identified with freak sexual practices, with clients imparting substance to one another and talking about their exercises. This can be seen just like a reflection of games fans talking about their preferred groups (Facebook, 2019).

Three significant web-based life topics have in this way been investigated, one where the part of sexual viciousness is unsafe and is planned for stunning individuals, one where it tends to inspire however can likewise blowback in unfair claim, and one where individuals can invest wholeheartedly and freedom in investigating their personalities and sexualities. One study (Ybarra et al., 2014) embraced an examination which was intended to break down the depiction the sexuality in web-based life, this was not so much constrained to sexual savagery just yet in addition included general sexual substance over the various mediums. This serves a significant capacity since it gives a more extensive setting under which the investigation of the subject can occur. This is on the grounds that the examination of a subject in a disengaged domain without the setting of what is generally connected with it serves to estrange it from its regular setting and setting. When joining the relevant subtleties with that of the subject, it turns out to be a lot simpler to have an increasingly target and nuanced perspective regarding the matter. All things considered; this paper has adopted a satisfactory strategy in introducing the setting of the examination without having the all-encompassing parameters become excessively bearing. It would have brought about the investigation winding up too unfocused and wide generally (see also Easteal, Holland, & Judd, 2015).

The paper refers to that rising examination has shown that there might be a connection, relationship in how sexual substance depiction in media can influence the conduct of individuals, particularly those as yet growing physically and mentally. The paper expresses the sexual instructive substance is significantly constrained and that most sex training comprises of the forbearance approach, which largely has demonstrated to be ineffectual. The paper expresses that all things considered, media, has turned into the significant wellspring of sexual data for a lot of individuals. This sexual data additionally comprises of the depiction of sexual savagery. The depiction of sexual substance inside the media has developed to a noteworthy degree, continuously through the spending years. This has, as a rule, prompted the expansion of sexual media depiction and therefore, sexual brutality depiction (see also Reichert & Lambiase, 2013).

The scientists directed a nearby finished review which was intended to examine the introduction of individuals to the sexual substance depiction in media. The consequences of the review demonstrated that web introduction to sexual substance, including sexual viciousness depiction, was incredibly constrained on the web as indicated by the members of the studies reactions. It showed that a sexual brutality depiction in online networking was enormously restricted contrasted with the size of presentation that happened inside different mediums, for example, videogames, music and significantly increasingly conventional media like TVs and motion pictures. The exploration at that point continued to look at the information of various populaces who were and who were not presented to sexual savagery depictions through different mediums. The outcomes were demonstrative of the way that introduction to sexual substance and even sexual viciousness from the depiction in various mediums like online networking on the web were not set apart with expanded sexual issue or occurrences of strikes or sexual based savagery (Zillmann et al., 2013; Berns, 2017).

The exploration showed that the commonness of sexual substance including sexual brutality on all mediums was basic to the point that it was practically inconceivable for any individual who uses these vehicles for any reason to have the option to maintain a strategic distance from presentation to these materials. The exploration additionally brought up a connection in the decline in the general number of hazardous sexual practices, for example, risky sex practices like not utilising a condom or having different sexual accomplices. The examination reasons that introduction to sexual material, including sexual savagery depicted via web-based networking media, isn't naturally destructive or awful in any shape or structure. The examination paper prescribes a more nuanced and unpretentious way to deal with the theme to produce a superior comprehension of sexuality and sexual substance, incorporating sexual savagery as a rule (Strasburger et al., 2010; see also Carter, 2012).

Greer (2012) exhibits that the depiction of sexual brutality inside the internet-based life structure and stage has huge results concerning the way its subject is seen inside the brains of the individuals. This speaks to a significant qualification that must be assumed into position if the depiction of sexual brutality all in all is to be examined top to bottom with the objective of incorporating an improved comprehension of it contrasted with what is as of now known. This is on the grounds that observation has a significant influence in how people manage data all in all also the day-by-day improvements they might be presented to in their everyday life. The components of recognition, subsequently, permit an individual to have the option to consider or process the data while utilising the specific situation and the parameter which they can see in from the upgrades as factors. These factors which are gotten from discernment can powerfully affect the manner of thinking of an individual.

The creator expresses that the depiction of sexual savagery inside internet-based life has made a significant change in the manner the subject, by and large, is considered in the public eye. The way of life of expanded transparency and discourse, which has been empowered by online life has empowered the different issues to turn out to be socially acknowledged and perceived as having a premise in truth (Collins et al., 2017). This is as a conspicuous difference to the past way where

such issues were left progressively private, covered or may have been even viewed as something of an open mystery, unthinkable which individuals were discerning of yet unfit to examine because of its forbidden nature. The degree and size of this change are noteworthy in view of the job internet-based life can play just as its attributes, which encourage the procedure being attempted. One such factor is the expanded worldwide range, which has permitted the individuals who might share content about sexual savagery to have the option to speak with one another (Ullman & Peter, 2014).

This has considered the making of networks where such sorts of discourses can without much of a stretch occur. This has unyieldingly prompted these networks at that point introducing themselves as acknowledged, endorsed, or real social associations inside a social air among different ways of thinking that might be held by the overall population at the time.

## 5. Discussion

This section of the research paper will present a discussion based on the information which is presented in the previous results section. The aspect of discussion results is an important aspect in a research paper because data alone is incapable of being useful or providing any useful results. The data which is extracted from the database inquiry for scholarly articles has to be presented within a context both in regard to where the information presents itself in the overall context to the previous work that has been done in this subject as well as the overall framework. This includes the observation and identification of any potential weaknesses, omissions or other such factors that could be noted within the study that might create a gap in the data, information or knowledge about it. This gap in information has not only to be noted but also analysed because it can provide additional insight into the chosen topic (Voogt & Roblin, 2010).

The recognition of the gap in the literature is also important because it can allow the identification of the areas where enough research or investigations have not been conducted or are lacking altogether. This can be extremely instrumental in allowing other scholars to generate a background or have an idea about the general atmosphere and knowledge framework that is currently present about a subject. This can then allow them to focus their resources on specific parameters, aspect, or factor and conduct their own research as a means of expanding the overall knowledge base of the chosen subject. The lack of investigation in certain areas can also allow other scholars to determine what approaches may be used in their own endeavour by using the information from previous articles as a guide for what to do and what to avoid in their own efforts (Grimshaw, Eccles, Lavis, Hill, & Squires, 2012).

The results which were present displayed a significant amount of information that inculcated a variety of approaches regarding how the topic of sexual violence portrayal on social media occurred. It is important to note that the study in the first literature used a significantly broader approach as a means of providing a greater amount of context about the topic. This proved to be extremely instrumental in creating an approach which was not narrow and was able to consider the more nuanced aspects of the content of a sexual nature. This approach also demonstrated the various other types of sexual content that may be posted online. This demonstrates that within the social media platforms, there is a large variety of sexual context that is shared in general. The type of content and the amount of it is inherently tied into the platform and the demographics that utilised them as they are interdependent on each other (Herring & Kapidzic, 2015).

Sexual content, in general, has been reported as being accepted within major social media platforms. The aspect of keeping the platform in question family friendly as well as approachable to advertisers has been dealt with the usage of age verification processes as a means of ensuring that underage people do not have access to that type of content or any content in general which generally deals with themes which are relegated as being adult orientated in general. The age verification process ranges from being extremely easy to bypass or being more rigorous in ensuring age verification. In general, it has been observed the most age verification processes which are conducted on the internet social media process do not practise enough scrutiny. Thus, this has repeatedly led to underage people being exposed to sexual content in general. Aside from the social media platforms, people are being exposed to content that consists of or contains elements of sexuality, sex or sexual violence in general (Gunter, 2014).

The results that the exposure to sexual content in nature did not cause any significant notable changes within groups who had been exposed to sexual violence and other related content and those who had not been. Thought it is important to note that the study itself made a mentioned as per their survey results that the prevalence of sexual content in all mediums made it difficult for anyone to be able to avoid exposure to said content. As such the people may have in fact been exposed to sexual violence portrayals but may not have been cognizant of the fact and thus mistakenly been classified as not having been exposed. This represents a need that there needs to be in general a more well-defined term with clear distinctions as to its characteristics of qualities as to allow for research to take place with more defined and set variables (Wright, 2011).

The second study demonstrated that the portrayal of sexual violence within the social media platforms was taken more seriously by some than others. This was especially pertinent in the case where the subject of sexual violence particularly dealt with instances that had to do with real life scenarios or settings. In these instances, sexual violence had an observable effect where actors within a social setting would take it upon themselves to enact what they perceived to be an injustice. Such was the fervour of these individuals that they managed to get emotional and take steps which would consist of



actions derived from a more emotional state of mind than one thinking about things rationally and logically. This would mean that there are many people on social media platforms who have a strong detestation of sexual violence when it occurs within real life. This, in part, is corroborative of the fact that sexual violence exposure does not change the attitudes towards the act in a positive light (O'Keeffe & Clarke, 2011).

This is in line with the previous literature, which mentioned no noticeable change. Finally, social media groups have had the power of creating and generating influence both through their presence as well as their actions. Social networking has led to the creating of new communities which would have been unable to survive within the social platform of physical interaction due to the limitations placed on them.

## **6. Conclusion and Recommendation**

This section of the research paper will present the conclusions and the recommendations from the information that was presented throughout the paper. First, the entire paper will be summarised by presenting the information that was extensively and thoroughly discussed throughout the paper in a comprehensive manner. This will ensure that the relevant information can be easily read and that the side contextual details which might prove to be redundant for a scholar are removed. This will increase the rate at which information can be absorbed as well as act as a summary of the entire paper. The information which will be presented will also be more continuous and not divided into different sections. This will, in turn, create a synthesis of the information which has been presented in this paper (Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brien, 2010).

After this has been a series of recommendations will follow which will illustrate the various improvements that may have been applied to this research paper to increase the accuracy and scope of the data and thus the subsequent results. This will also create a list of limitations which were present in the paper. In addition, areas for further investigation, which were recognised because of this endeavour of this paper will be highlighted. This will allow other scholars in the future to use this research paper as a guide in their own investigative efforts. It can also serve as a reference to others and guide them in what specific direction to aim or direct their studies.

This research paper set out by introducing the subject which was to be discussed within it. A general background of sexual violence was presented as being an informal term that was also not used in a legal context aside from being a generic blanket term where violence was tied with the nature of sex. This was followed by the discussion of the spread of social media platforms and the wide number of them that are available for use by the public. Some of the social media platforms are giants and incorporate most of the users who frequent these platforms. More niche platforms exist in addition to completely private or underground forums which in general are unknown or closed to the public. The lack of access to these nicer groups has led the scope of this research paper suffering to some degree as it was unable to inculcate the data from these platforms for the purposes of analysis and interpretation.

This was followed by a literature review which presented information which scholars had published regarding the subject. The two major themes which would be identified in the works were no significant changes and different outcomes. Each one is supporting the other. It was observed from the studies that the differences which may exist between those who are exposed to sexual content and even sexual content of a violent nature and those who were not exposed to such materials, intentionally or unintentionally. This lack of a difference between the two groups demonstrates that sexual violence exposure may not have many detrimental effects on individuals. In fact, as demonstrated in the next study, it is imperative to note that the results signify that people on social media are vehemently opposed to sexual violence in general (Cheong & Gong, 2010).

This is further highlighted by the fact that people have been taking the law into their own hands and have undertaken efforts to enact what they see as revenge or justice by taking actions against the alleged perpetrators of sexual crimes. This may even allow for the creating of a conjecture that the exposure to content with relation to sexual violence can expose an individual to distressful situations in a more controlled environment where they are not in any actual danger. This can lead to them being able to mentally process the different perspectives that are associated with it and thus allow for them to be able to mentally handle real incidents of such subject material as they may occur in real life. It would be, however, incomplete to not note the actions taken by these social actors in response to alleged sexual violence (Trottier, 2014).

As was demonstrated in the studies, the people who partook in action against alleged perpetrators of sexual violence failed to consider the law. Rather than letting the legal system deal with the problem, the people deemed the accused person of being guilty and then took the liberty to decide the type of punishment that the alleged supposedly deserved. This may have some factor involved that may need to be investigated in depth. Namely the chief one being the exposure of sexually violent content and the effects it can have on how the person perceives the content and then carries out actions in order to deal with the incident when they see it occurring. It would be important to note the difference in what occurs when a sexual violence incidence takes place on a more personal level and as compared to it happens in a more distant context, such as to someone else who may not be related to the individual (Trottier & Fuchs, 2014).

This study was greatly limited by the second approach that was employed in the endeavour of investigating the chosen topic.

In particular, the changing nature of the social platforms means that information which is valid in the current setting may not be soon or may have already become deprecated due to the fast-evolving nature of the digital forefront of social media and online interactions. This is especially pertinent in the case of nicer or short-term trends which have a tendency of having brief rises in popularity and then slowly fading away into obscurity, briefly surfacing from time to time as references in place in other materials. Future scholars would do well to utilise a more primary approach if it would be possible. As the social media platforms that exist are numerous, the resources which would have to be allocated to the research will have to be equally as extensive to cover the wide range of material in a comprehensive and adequate manner (Cooper, 2015).

There can allow being a limitation on the scope of the study by future scholars by using the major social media platforms as a means of gauging a large part of the population. This data will may then be used as a pushing point for the investigation of more niche and closed off communities. Or in contrast, the scholars can include the more niche communities as a part of their research, as it will allow the investigation into demographics which may be commonly underrepresented in such studies. This underrepresentation can arise for a multiple of reasons, including but not limited to, the limitation on the funding of the study, the reluctance of closed off communities to communicate with outside individual etc. (Crowe et al., 2011). It is recommended that geographical differences, such as varying cultures and countries facing sexual violence in different contexts, as well as different methodological approaches, be further addressed in the future.

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### **Data sharing statement**

No additional data are available.

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