

Digital Literacy Educational Visual Media Parenting Child Pornography



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Submitted: June 2025 | Revised: October 2025 | Accepted: December 2025

ARTICLE HISTORY:

Keywords:

*Digital Literacy,
Educational Visual
Media,
Parenting,
Child Pornography*

DOI:

Abstract: The increasingly massive development of digital technology brings both positive impacts and serious challenges to children's growth and development, one of which is the increased risk of exposure to pornographic content. Easy access, minimal digital literacy, and weak supervision are factors that increase children's vulnerability to content that is inappropriate for their psychological and cognitive developmental stages. This study aims to examine preventive efforts to protect children from exposure to pornography in the digital era through the synergy of parental roles and the use of educational visual media, particularly posters. The research method used is a qualitative approach through literature review by reviewing journal articles, research reports, and relevant documents discussing digital parenting, the dangers of pornography on children's brains, and educational visual media. The discussion focuses on two main aspects: the role of parental care in building children's control, communication, and digital literacy, and the effectiveness of educational visual media as a communicative and easily understood preventive tool for children and students. The results of the study indicate that the collaboration between adaptive parenting and the use of educational visual media can strengthen children's and their surrounding environment's awareness of the dangers of pornography. This research is expected to serve as a reference for parents, educators, and education practitioners in designing sustainable and contextual prevention strategies in the digital era.

INTRODUCTION

The development of digital technology over the past two decades has transformed nearly every aspect of human life, including parenting patterns and the educational process. The internet, social media, and various digital devices provide easy access to information, entertainment, and communication without the constraints of time and space. However, behind these benefits, there are serious challenges that require collective attention, one of which is the increasing exposure of children to pornographic content. This phenomenon is a crucial issue because children are at a vulnerable stage of cognitive and emotional development, so exposure to inappropriate content can have long-term impacts on their behavior, mental health, and character development.

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<https://www.journal.uruborospublishing.com/index.php/jesp>

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In the digital age, pornography is no longer limited to print media or specific channels, but is present in large numbers and easily accessible through personal devices. Children can be exposed intentionally or unintentionally through advertisements, social media links, online games, or recommendations from algorithms that are not child-friendly. This situation is further exacerbated by low digital literacy, weak adult supervision, and a lack of open communication between parents and children regarding digital media use. Nurhayat et al. (2025) emphasized that exposure to pornography at an early age can affect the structure and function of a child's brain, particularly in aspects of self-control, concentration, and emotional regulation. Therefore, this issue is not only related to moral aspects, but also concerns the psychological and neurological health of children.

The role of parents is key in protecting children from these risks. In the context of digital parenting, parents are no longer sufficient as passive supervisors; they need to be active companions who understand technology, their children's media consumption patterns, and the risks involved. Adaptive parenting in the digital age requires two-way communication, instilling values, cultivating self-control, and setting clear but proportionate boundaries. When parents are able to build open and supportive relationships, children tend to be better prepared to face digital challenges and are more willing to share their experiences or confusions while surfing the internet (Nurhayat et al., 2025).

In addition to family care, preventive efforts also need to be supported by an educational approach tailored to the characteristics of children and students. One approach considered effective is the use of educational visual media, such as posters. Visual media has the advantage of conveying messages concisely, engagingly, and easily understood. Dini et al. (2024) stated that educational posters can be a preventative communication tool that can raise students' awareness of the dangers of pornography, especially when presented in simple language and with visuals relevant to everyday life. This media serves not only as an information tool but also as a visual reminder that can indirectly influence attitudes and behavior.

The synergy between parents' roles and the use of educational visual media is crucial because preventing pornography exposure cannot be achieved in isolation. Efforts that rely solely on technological supervision without reinforcing values and education risk being ineffective. Conversely, sound education without the support of home care will also face limitations in daily implementation. Collaboration between the family environment and a visual educational approach allows for the formation of a more comprehensive and sustainable child protection ecosystem.

In this context, research on protecting children from exposure to pornography in the digital age is relevant and urgent. This study not only seeks to understand the role of parents in digital parenting but also examines how educational visual media can be utilized as an effective preventative strategy. The focus is directed at two main issues: the role of parents in nurturing and supporting children amidst the risk-laden digital landscape, and how educational visual media, particularly posters, can contribute to raising awareness and adopting preventive attitudes toward the dangers of pornography.

By examining these two aspects, this research is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of child protection strategies that are contextualized to current developments. Furthermore, the results of this study are expected to serve as a reference for parents, educators, and stakeholders in designing educational and parenting programs that are responsive to digital challenges. Through the synergy between adaptive parenting and the use of educational visual media, efforts to protect children from exposure to pornography are not only an individual responsibility but also a collective movement oriented towards the best interests of children's growth and development in the digital age.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Protecting children from exposure to pornography in the digital age is a multidimensional issue involving technology, developmental psychology, parenting, and educational approaches. This literature review discusses the theoretical foundations and findings of previous research relevant to the focus of this study, specifically regarding pornography in the digital age, the role of parental care, and the use of educational visual media as a preventative measure. To clarify the discussion, the literature review is presented under several thematic subheadings.

Pornography in the Digital Age and Children's Vulnerability

Advances in digital technology have changed the way children interact with information and media. The internet provides fast and widespread access to a variety of content, including content that is not age-appropriate. Digital pornography poses a serious threat due to its easy access, stealth, and often unintentional exposure through advertisements, links, or algorithmic recommendations. Children, who are still in the cognitive and emotional developmental stage, tend to lack the digital literacy skills and self-control to filter such content. Several studies have shown that exposure to pornography at an early age can negatively impact child development. Nurhayat et al. (2025) explain that consuming pornographic content can affect children's brain function, particularly in areas related to decision-making, impulse control, and emotional regulation. These impacts are not only short-term but also have the potential to influence children's social behavior and views on relationships and sexuality in the future. Therefore, pornography cannot be viewed simply as a moral issue, but rather as a child's development and mental health issue.

Parenting in a Digital Context

In facing the challenges of digital pornography, parents play a key role in creating a safe environment for children. Parenting in the digital age requires parents to adapt to changes in technology and their children's media consumption patterns. Parents serve not only as supervisors but also as educators and mentors, building children's understanding of healthy and responsible media use.

Nurhayat et al. (2025) emphasize the importance of communicative and participatory parenting, where parents actively engage in dialogue with their children about the risks and ethics of internet use. Open communication allows children to feel safe asking questions and sharing experiences, thereby minimizing the risk of exposure

to pornography. Furthermore, effective parenting includes establishing rules for device use, limiting screen time, and providing examples of healthy digital behavior by parents themselves. Other literature shows that a lack of parental involvement in children's digital activities is correlated with an increased risk of deviant behavior online. Therefore, strengthening parents' capacity in digital literacy is an important part of prevention strategies. Adaptive parenting not only protects children from negative content but also equips them with critical skills to face digital challenges independently.

Digital Literacy as a Foundation for Prevention

Digital literacy is the ability to access, understand, evaluate, and use digital information wisely. In the context of child protection, digital literacy serves as a crucial foundation for preventing exposure to pornography. Children with good digital literacy are more likely to recognize risky content and understand the consequences of unsafe online behavior. Parents and educators play a crucial role in instilling digital literacy from an early age. Digital literacy education does not have to be delivered through a complex approach, but can be delivered simply and contextually, appropriate to the child's age. Instilling values, norms, and media ethics is an integral part of this process. Thus, digital literacy focuses not only on the technical aspects of technology use but also on character development and social responsibility in children in the digital space.

Educational Visual Media as a Preventive Strategy

In addition to nurturing and digital literacy, the appropriate use of educational media also plays a crucial role in prevention efforts. Educational visual media, such as posters, are considered effective because they convey messages concisely, engagingly, and easily understood. Strong visualizations can help children and students understand the dangers of pornography without exposing them to explicit content.

Dini et al. (2024) demonstrated that educational posters can raise students' awareness of the dangers of pornography and encourage preventive behavior. Posters designed with simple language, relevant illustrations, and persuasive messages can be effective communication tools in schools and public spaces. The advantage of visual media lies in its ability to reach a broad audience and provide ongoing visual reminders. In an educational context, visual media can also complement home care. When the messages conveyed through posters align with the values and rules implemented by parents, the process of internalizing values in children is strengthened. Thus, educational visual media does not stand alone but becomes part of an integrated prevention ecosystem.

Synergy of Parenting and Visual Media in Child Protection

Literature shows that efforts to protect children from exposure to pornography are more effective when implemented collaboratively. The synergy between parental care and the use of educational visual media allows for a consistent environment for conveying prevention messages. Children receive information not only from a single source, but from various mutually reinforcing contexts. This approach emphasizes that pornography prevention is not solely the responsibility of families or schools but requires the involvement of various parties. Parents, educators, and the community each have a role

to play in creating a safe digital space for children. Educational visual media can bridge communication between these various parties, while parental care ensures that prevention messages are implemented in everyday life.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

This study uses a qualitative approach with a library research method adapted to the research objective, namely to examine preventive efforts in protecting children from exposure to pornography in the digital era through the synergy of parental roles and educational visual media. A qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to understand the phenomenon in depth through the analysis of relevant concepts, theories, and previous research findings. The library study was used to examine various scientific sources that discuss childcare in the digital era, the impact of pornography on child development, and the use of visual media, especially posters, as a means of preventive education.

Sample and Data Collection

The data sources in this study come from secondary data in the form of scientific journal articles, proceedings, academic books, and research reports relevant to the study topic. Source selection was carried out purposively with the following criteria: (1) discussing the themes of child pornography, digital parenting, or educational visual media; (2) published in credible national journals; and (3) having direct relevance to the research focus. The data collection process was carried out through searching online journal databases and scientific repositories. The collected data were then classified based on the main themes, namely the role of parents in digital parenting and the use of educational visual media as a preventive strategy.

Analyzing Data

Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis techniques, which involved identifying, grouping, and interpreting key themes emerging from the reviewed literature. The analysis phase included critically reading data sources, noting key ideas, and comparing findings across studies to identify patterns, similarities, and differences in perspective. The analysis results were then synthesized to provide a comprehensive overview of the effectiveness of the synergy between parenting and educational visual media in preventing children's exposure to pornography. This approach is expected to yield a systematic and contextual understanding in accordance with the research objectives formulated in the abstract.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings/Results

Based on the analysis of various relevant literature sources, the findings of this study indicate that efforts to protect children from exposure to pornography in the digital era are heavily influenced by two main factors: the role of parental care and the use of educational visual media as a preventive measure. These findings are presented in two subheadings in accordance with the research problem formulation.

The Role of Parents in Digital Parenting as a Preventive Effort

The literature review shows that parents play a central role in shaping children's digital behavior. Most studies emphasize that adaptive, communicative, and digital literacy-based parenting can reduce the risk of exposure to pornography in children. Parents who actively accompany their children in using devices, establish internet usage rules, and foster open communication tend to be more effective in preventing children from accessing negative content. The literature also reveals that an authoritarian or overly permissive parenting approach actually increases children's vulnerability to pornographic content. Children who do not receive adequate explanations and guidance tend to seek information independently without adequate understanding of the risks. Conversely, parents who provide gradual, age-appropriate education can help children develop self-control and digital awareness from an early age. Furthermore, findings indicate that parents' digital literacy levels also influence parenting effectiveness. Parents who understand technology and the dynamics of digital media are better prepared to anticipate potential exposure to pornography, both through device settings, monitoring online activity, and engaging in educational dialogue with their children.

Educational Visual Media as a Means of Pornography Prevention

Further findings indicate that educational visual media, particularly posters, play a crucial role as a preventative communication tool in pornography prevention. Various analyzed studies confirm that educational posters can raise children's and students' awareness of the dangers of pornography without necessarily displaying explicit content. Posters are considered effective because they convey messages concisely, visually, and easily understood. This medium can reach children in various contexts, including schools, communities, and other public spaces. Consistent and repeated visual messages reinforce the preventative values instilled by parents at home. Findings also indicate that educational posters designed with simple language, relevant illustrations, and persuasive messages are more easily accepted by children and adolescents. This visual medium serves not only as a source of information but also as a visual reminder that encourages reflection and a preventative attitude towards digital media use.

Discussion

This discussion section interprets the research findings by linking them to the literature review and research objectives, and emphasizes their relevance to efforts to protect children from exposure to pornography in the digital era.

Strengthening Parenting in Facing Digital Challenges

Research findings reinforce the view that parental care is the first line of defense in protecting children from exposure to pornography. This aligns with Nurhayat et al. (2025), who emphasized that digital parenting involves not only technical supervision but also the formation of children's values, attitudes, and awareness in using digital media. A communicative parenting approach has been shown to be more effective than a repressive one. When parents establish an open dialogue about the risks and ethics of media use, children tend to better understand the reasons behind the restrictions imposed. This helps children develop self-regulation and critical thinking skills when dealing with digital

content. Furthermore, parental digital literacy is a crucial supporting factor. Parents who understand how digital media works, including potential risks and content filtering mechanisms, are better able to create a safe digital environment for their children. Therefore, digital parenting should be viewed as a collaborative learning process between parents and children, rather than simply one-sided control.

Integration of Educational Visual Media in Prevention Strategies

Findings regarding the effectiveness of educational visual media indicate that pornography prevention cannot rely solely on home care. Visual media, such as posters, serve as supporting tools that extend the reach of prevention messages to broader social spaces. This aligns with the findings of Dini et al. (2024), who asserted that educational posters can raise students' collective awareness of the dangers of pornography. Visual media has the advantage of conveying messages quickly and non-verbally, thus aligning with the characteristics of children and adolescents who tend to be responsive to visual stimuli. Posters placed in schools or public spaces can serve as ongoing reminders that reinforce messages conveyed by parents. Furthermore, the integration of parental care and educational visual media creates consistency in the messages received by children. When prevention values instilled at home align with visual messages in the social environment, children's internalization of these values is stronger. This demonstrates the importance of inter-environmental synergy in child protection efforts.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion, several recommendations can be put forward for future researchers and education practitioners. Researchers are advised to expand this research with empirical approaches, such as surveys, in-depth interviews, or limited experiments, to directly measure the effectiveness of the synergy between parental care and educational visual media in preventing children's exposure to pornography. Further research could also expand the subject matter to include children from different age groups and social backgrounds to obtain a more comprehensive picture. Furthermore, interdisciplinary studies involving psychological, neurological, and information technology perspectives are essential to deepen understanding of the impact of digital pornography on child development. For practitioners, particularly parents, educators, and educational institution administrators, this study recommends strengthening the role of digital parenting by improving the digital literacy of parents and children. Educational programs that actively involve parents need to be developed sustainably. The use of educational visual media, such as posters, is also recommended for integration into school environments and public spaces as a communicative and accessible prevention tool. Collaboration between families, schools, and communities is expected to create a more effective child protection ecosystem in the digital era.

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