

## **WATCH NENE HAVING SEX: Children in Pornographic Films**

### **A Mini-Research Study on the Availability of Pornographic Films in the Philippines Featuring Children/Youths**

#### **Introduction**

New developments in the electronic industry in the past decade has increasingly made it easier for anyone to have access to child pornographic materials, and this has increased concerns about the possibility (and probability) of child sexual abuse and exploitation. In the United States, this concern has led to a legislation inhibiting the production, sale, dissemination, and possession of pornographic materials portraying children and adolescents. Their reporting system has allowed for the tracking of crimes involving pornography and child exploitation.

In the Philippines, however, the purchase and possession of child pornographic materials is not against the law. It is not in R.A. 7610, the Act proclaiming Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination. The closest provision is in Article V which states that the law shall punish those “who shall hire, employ, use, persuade, induce, or coerce a child to perform in obscene exhibitions and indecent shows, whether live or in video, or model in obscene publications or pornographic materials or to sell or distribute the said materials.”

Men who purchase child pornography materials might invoke their right to privacy and declare that what they treat as entertainment in their own homes is their business and nobody else’s. However, research studies abroad have shown that there is a link between the consumption of child pornography materials and eventual molestation of children.

A recent study by psychologists treating child pornography offenders (i.e., men convicted of possessing or distributing child pornography materials) at the Federal Bureau of Prisons in the United States have shown that fully 85 percent of the offenders had committed acts of sexual abuse against minors, ranging from inappropriate touching to rape. Only 26 percent of the men were known to have actual sexual abuse offenses before sentencing, numbering 75 minor victims. The study revealed, however, that the number of victims was much higher, totaling at least 1,777 for the 155 male inmates who participated in the research as part of their treatment program.

This study has shown that there might be a number of undetected potential child molesters who think that they are not doing harm as they are “only” watching or downloading these materials. This is especially alarming in the Philippines with the lack of an appropriate legislation to check the number of pornographic materials proliferating even in public places.

#### **The Anti-Child Pornography Bill of 2008**

In the Philippines, awareness about the proliferation of child pornographic materials is increasing. There are bills being lobbied for in the Senate to control such phenomenon. One such pending bill is the “Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2008 (Senate Bill No. 2317) being sponsored by Senators Jamby Madrigal and Francis Escudero.

SB 2317 calls for the criminalization not only of the recruitment and portrayal of children for the production of pornographic materials (visual, written, or audio), but including as well its sale and distribution, and even its access or possession.

Under the Bill, Internet Service Providers are obligated to report to the authorities any commission of child pornography using its server or facility. They are also required to install programs to block access to child pornography sites. Fines and prison sentences are stiff, ranging from one (1) year imprisonment and a fine of P100,000 for those convicted of possessing or accessing child pornographic materials, to a 12-year prison sentence and a Two Million Peso (P2,000,000) fine for those found guilty of using children in the production of such materials.

Stairway Foundation, as a child-caring agency advocating against child sexual abuse and exploitation, strongly supports the passing of this Bill. To come up with a preliminary look at the availability of child pornographic films to the public, the organization conducted a mini-research study in selected cities in Metro Manila. It aimed to know how readily available these films are, and how children are portrayed in such videos.

## Research Findings

### Location

Stairway mostly focused on the cities of Manila and Quezon (see *table below*), the two biggest cities in the province of Metro Manila in terms of population. Selection of location was purposive, reflecting the team’s knowledge of where pirated DVDs are likely sold, and the proximity of public institutions (e.g., churches, police stations) to DVD stalls selling pirated films.

The organization’s representative went at night and followed the same procedure: he would look at the VCDs/DVDs displayed, he would ask (if he is not offered first) for “bold” movies, and then he would look for films with younger actors. If told that only adult porno DVDs are available, he would ask for the reason why they did not sell child pornography.

*Table 1. Places sampled.*

PLACE	CITY	CDs Available	REASON
Hidalgo St., Quiapo	Manila	Yes	
Raon St., Quiapo	Manila	Yes	
Carriedo St., Quiapo	Manila	Yes	
Harrison Plaza	Manila	Yes	
Morayta St.	Manila	No	Prohibited
University Belt	Manila	No	Prohibited
Aurora Blvd.	Q.C.	No	Prohibited
Ali Mall, Cubao	Q.C.	No	Prohibited
Philcoa	Q.C.	Yes	
Tandang Sora	Q.C.	Yes	
Makati Cinema Square	Makati	Yes	
Baclaran	Parañaque	No	Out of stock; Prohibited
Greenhills Mall	Pasig	No	Prohibited

Of the places where DVDs were purchased, two of the stalls were a few meters away from churches, one was very near the National Bureau of Investigation, one was just across a police precinct, one was just outside a university, and two were inside the shopping malls. These were all situated in places where there are a number of people passing by. Makeshift stalls selling pirated films (both pornographic and not) have in fact become a common sight anywhere in Metro Manila.

A common reply of vendors as to why they did not sell child pornography films was that it was prohibited or against the law. Yet, even if some vendors say so, others just beside them usually have these DVDs, either in plain sight or stored somewhere inconspicuous. Child pornography videos are hidden more discreetly, and only brought out when directly asked for. In two instances, the SFI buyer had to be taken to a dark alley and to another part of the mall just to be shown these films.

### **Packaging**

Twenty (20) DVDs were bought in these places. All feature girl children and young women in sexy and sexually suggestive poses on the front and back covers. Some have screen captures of actual sex acts of both adults and children.

The following table shows the CDs vis-à-vis the children featured in the back and front covers.

*Table 2. Front and back covers.*

<b>CD TITLE</b>	<b>FRONT COVER</b>	<b>BACK COVER</b>	<b>COVER TEXT</b>
Child Abuse 2008: Straved ( <i>sic</i> ) Pussy	Caucasian girls aged 8-10 in sexy poses	Caucasian girls aged 8-10 in sexy poses	
Child Abuse Collection Vol. 2	Naked Caucasian girls aged 8-10 in sexy poses	Caucasian girls 8-10 years old being penetrated vaginally and orally	
Child Abuse Collection Vol. 3	Naked Caucasian girls aged 10-12 in graphic* poses	Naked Caucasian girls aged 10-12 in graphic poses	
Child Abuse Collection Vol. 4	Naked Caucasian girls aged 7-10 in graphic poses	Naked Caucasian girls aged 7-10 being penetrated vaginally and orally by adult males	
First Timers	Caucasian girls aged 8-10 in sexy and graphic poses	Caucasian girls aged 8-10 (or younger) being penetrated vaginally and orally	See what this ( <i>sic</i> ) little kids are doing...they are really hot...cum and play...enjoy!!!
First Timer Special	Caucasian girls aged 8-12 years old in sexy poses	Girls of a younger age range in sexy poses	
Lolita Hot Kids Vol. 3	Caucasian girls aged 8-10 years old in sexy poses	Girls 8-10 years old in various poses being penetrated (orally, anally,	

		vaginally) by adult males	
Innocent Hs-Abuse	Caucasian girls aged 8-10 in sexy poses	None	Do not be afraid to look at them...they won't hurt you...
Live Shot	Naked Caucasian girls aged 10-12 in graphic poses	Naked Caucasian girls aged 10-12 in graphic poses	
Calumpit Scandal/Binibining San Jose	Naked teenage girls (~15-17 years old), in graphic poses	Voyeur pictures of blowjobs	
Pinay Qatar Scandal	Naked teenage girls in graphic poses (both Asians and Caucasians)	Naked teenage girls in graphic poses (Asians & Caucasians)	
Maricar Lopez Sex Video	Teenage girl around 12-14 years old, in a sexy pose	Naked Asian teenagers/young adults in graphic poses	
Lily Expose	Late teenage/young adult Asian girls in graphic poses	None	
Seductive Young	Caucasian girls aged 7-10 years old in sexy poses	Caucasian girls aged 7-10 years old (or younger) in poses being penetrated vaginally and orally by adult males	
Younger Teens: 18 Years Old	A young naked Asian woman	Young women in graphic poses	Where 19 years old is too old
Barely Legal	A young Caucasian woman in a sexy pose	Naked young women in graphic poses	
Young Slut: High School Girl	Young Asian (Japanese) women in sexy and graphic poses	Young women being penetrated anally and vaginally	
Gang Rape Teens	A Caucasian teenager being forced to do oral sex and another one being raped	Young women in graphic poses being penetrated (some look raped)	
The Best of Webcam Scandal Vol. 7: 18 year old Filipina Webcam	Naked Asian young woman in a graphic pose	Asian and Caucasian young women in graphic poses	Story of an 18-year-old student who works at a pay-per-view web show to enable her to pay her tuition. The films in the DVD are said to be "samples" from her shows
Extremely Best of Philippine Scandals Vol. 6: Estudyante	A young Asian woman in a graphic pose	Captured shots of women in graphic poses	

\* *graphic—sexually suggestive*

Packaging of these films is intended for people who find sexual activities of and with children pleasurable. Thus, pictures of children, from pre-pubescent to early

adulthood, are shown prominently on the DVD covers in sexy and sexually suggestive poses. Some covers have screen captures of these children naked and being engaged in all forms of sexual intercourse with adult men.

Some DVDs also have texts on the cover which invite buyers to look at the children and see them “play.” These are all meant to entice people to buy the films or DVDs.

### **Content**

When the Stairway buyer (a young man specifically contracted for the job) was done collecting data, three Stairway staff browsed through every disk and every film to identify whether the film had any children in it, and what kinds of sexual acts children are usually portrayed on such films.

Out of the twenty DVDs purchased, six were defective and could not be read, one contained dance music instead of videos, and thirteen contained pornographic videos. Except for some made on web cameras or cellular phones, most of the videos were professionally made, with professional actors portraying the role of children. They dressed in school uniforms, tied their hair in a ponytail, and generally acted as if they were teenage girls. Some even simulated virginity to support the fantasy.

Out of these thirteen DVDs, seven contained seven films with teenage girls having sex with male adults. These were usually not done professionally. One such video is *Two Fresh Young*, showing two Southeast Asian-looking teenagers (around 15-17 years old) having sex in all positions with a Caucasian man in a hotel room. There were at least two other people in the room; one taking photographs, and one holding the camera. A label shows that it was taken from the website [www.AsianStreetMeat.com](http://www.AsianStreetMeat.com).

Out of the seven films featuring minors, two had pre-pubescent children engaging in sexual activities with adult males. One such film is entitled *Love Me Pedo: Brother and Sister Fuck*, showing a young Caucasian girl (around 9-10 years old) having sex with a slightly older boy. Presumably siblings, they are shown having sex with each other (being helped by a male adult) and having sex (oral and anal) with a male adult. The video quality was amateurish.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The primary purpose of this mini-research study is to find out the availability of child pornographic films to the public, and gain understanding as to the demand of these kinds of materials.

According to the data gathered, most vendors say that selling pornographic materials is prohibited. This did not prevent most of them, though, to display such films in full view of every passersby and near public institutions such as churches, universities, and police stations.

However, there seemed to be a consensus that child pornography should not be displayed openly. These were stored in black plastic bags, concealed among other films, and in two cases, stored in other parts of the store.

Based on the data, most child pornography DVDs in the market feature adult actors instead of children as advertised. Packaging of these films is intended for people who find

sexual activities of and with children pleasurable, thus showing pictures of naked children in sexually suggestive poses. Some also have texts on the cover enticing buyers to purchase the video.

Although it seems “encouraging” that most of these materials do not deliver as promised and use only children’s pictures to draw interest, it has a grimmer implication. It shows that pornographic materials featuring children do sell. Producers who have no actual videos of children in sexual activities nevertheless attempt to meet the demands of the market by deceit. Presumably, it would not take long for them to cross the line from mere simulation to actually producing materials featuring children to increase their profit.

This report then strongly recommends the urgent passage of the Anti-Child Pornography Bill of 2008. The consequences of child sexual abuse have been widely documented, and R.A. 7610, among other laws protecting the rights of children, does not directly address the issue of child pornography. The production, distribution, and possession of these child pornographic materials undermine the efforts being done by children’s rights advocates, and make children all the more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

As this research focuses only on the materials available in the market about child pornography, it is also recommended that a study be done on the access of children themselves to pornographic materials, and in what form (print, video, internet) they find it easier to gain access to. A research study on this topic had been done with Cambodian children, and it would be very important to know whether their findings also reflect the Philippine situation. Another possible area of inquiry would be to examine children’s self-perception on the consequences of viewing these kinds of materials.

Both research studies would certainly contribute a great deal in coming up with local and national programs addressing this issue.

Child pornography seriously puts children at risk. The Philippine government and civil society groups must work hand in hand to eradicate child pornography once and for all.

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#### *References:*

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