Sexual Behaviour Change on Youth in Digitalized World

Rey Quincy\(^1\), Kammuraed Manduza\(^1\)

\(^1\)Health Sciences Faculty, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

*Corresponding Author: Rey Quincy

**Abstract**

This article discusses the characteristics of adolescents and the influence of social media on adolescent sexual behavior. The millennial generation's communication style is also extremely open in comparison to earlier generations, in terms of obsessive use of social media, and every aspect of life is heavily affected by technology advancements and places a premium on money. Sexual harassment on the Internet is harassment that comes to light via a large yet ineffective reporting and management process. Sexual harassment on social media is becoming an increasingly public issue, according to a new study by Google Form. The study gathered information from 104 respondents with birth years ranging from 1980 to 2000 who engaged in a poll.

**Introduction**

Recently, the term "millennial generation" has been tossed around a lot more than usual. A person or group of people who have been shaped by history, have distinguishing characteristics, most notably their birth year, and have seen changes through time is referred to as a generation (Hay et al., 2015; Elder et al., 2018). The millennial generation, often known as Generation Y, is a demographic group (cohort) that was born between 1980 and 2000, immediately following the Generation X generation in terms of birth year. Thus, the millennial generation is defined as individuals who are currently between the ages of 18 and 38 at the time of writing.

A prominent American newspaper editorial in August 1993 was the first time the term "millennial generation" was used in the context of a major American newspaper. As described by the Pew Research Center, this generation interacts immediately via technology such as text messaging, e-mail, and social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. In other words, this generation grew up at the heyday of the internet's popularity.

In 2010, the Pew Study Center released a research report titled Millennials: A Portrait of the Next Generation, which was titled "Millenials: A Portrait of the Next Generation." As a result of empirical data from this study and other sources about generational literature studies, as well as an interesting subject in different surveys, reports, and news stories, at the very least take notice of and analyze the literature in order to learn about some of the generation's distinctive traits in comparison to previous generations. Group loyalty and a strong feeling of entitlement are some of the main traits identified for millennials. Others include a significant dependence on social influencers and networks to make critical life choices, a strong emphasis on educational achievement, and a heavy reliance on technology in their everyday lives and interactions. These traits may be seen in Millennials at home, at work, and even in their leisure time. The research also shows that millennials are trying to change the environment in which they live, both professionally and in social and political arenas, according to the findings.
Youth Characteristics

Concerning the characteristics of the millennial generation, the author finds that they vary depending on where the generation was raised, economic strata, and connections with extended family members. In addition, the millennial generation's communication style is very open in contrast to previous generations, particularly in terms of compulsive usage of social media. Every area of life is strongly influenced by technological advances, and money is placed a high value on it in comparison to previous generations (Dabija et al., 2019; Alsop, 2008). A further characteristic of this group is that they are more open to political and economic concepts, which makes them seem to be highly reactive to changes in their immediate environment.

Generation Y has four positive characteristics. The group is described as a generation that is confident, optimistic, and self-respecting; a generation that is educated; a generation that is open; and a generation that is tolerant of change (Cole, 2014). The following are ten pessimistic problems that have been gathered from a range of academics, journalists, and specialists about their opinions on the millennial generation: (a) this generation lacks social skills, (b) this generation lacks time for sports or healthful activities, (c) this generation suffers with decision-making, (e) this generation has no shame, (f) this generation steals, (g) this generation is impolite, and (h) this generation lacks a work ethic.

At the very least, 95 percent of the population uses the internet to access social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Meanwhile, out of a total population of 256.2 million people, 132.7 million people account for more than half of all internet users (132.7 million people). Men continue to be the most frequent internet users, despite the fact that their numbers are small, accounting for 51.8 percent of all internet users, compared to 48.2 percent for women. According to these statistics, the largest percentage of internet users by age group is found between the ages of 25 and 29 and between the ages of 35 and 39, respectively. Meanwhile, private employees account for the majority of internet users (23.8 million), followed by two small company owners (20 million), three students (18 million), and retail employees (14 million) (1.5 million).

More than 106 million people use social media on a monthly basis, with 85 percent of them accessing it via mobile devices, according to statistics. Due to the fact that they were born into a digital age, when cellphones and online shopping have become entrenched in everyday life, the millennial generation and generation Z make up the bulk of these internet users (Fromm & Read, 2018). This generation, which has been affected by technology and defined by openness, has seen a great deal of cultural change. Millennials are also eager to share every activity they do on social media, in addition to seeking information. Due to the fact that this conduct has effectively merged private and public spaces, there is an issue known as cyber harassment. In this context, harassment is defined as the intentional targeting of another person via the use of information technology and communication channels.

Cyber Harassment

A common kind of cyber harassment is the practice of sending text messages on a regular basis to someone via technology, such as the internet, mobile phones or other devices, with the aim to hurt, annoy, scare, or threaten that person (Hinduja & Patchin, 2014; Eckstein & Danbury, 2020). In response to a complaint claiming that the victim had been the target of online harassment, including sending pictures of male genitalia or pornographic films to the victim's private chat with the purpose of frightening and intimidating the victim, as well as cyber-harrassment in non-sexual settings, for example, Komnas Perempuan came to this conclusion. Threats, ridicule, and nasty comments are sent to the victim's private chat room in the form of messages. It is divided into two categories: cyber grooming, which is the deliberate use of technology to find prospective victims who may be harassed or misled because of their
education, age, physical condition, or economic position, and cyber prostitutes, which are activities connected to online pornography services.

According to a small sample of research on adolescent development, a large number of teenagers are subjected to sexual harassment online. Sexual harassment is defined legally as any kind of unwanted sexual desire that creates a threatening, uncomfortable, or insulting environment. It may take many forms. As defined by the American Society for Human Rights, sexual harassment includes unwanted sexual behavior that manifests itself in minor instances to serious breaches, and may even involve forced sexual contact, which creates an uncomfortable environment for harassment victims.

According to the UK Safer Internet Center, a quantitative and qualitative research was conducted on 3,257 respondents from Denmark, Hungary, and the United Kingdom to determine how young people are exposed to sexual harassment on the internet. According to the research, which was financed by the European Commission, the deSHAME initiative aims to enhance teenage reporting of online sexual harassment as well as cross-sector collaboration in preventing and responding to associated conduct. As a result, scholars have divided sexual harassment into four different types, which are as follows: For starters, harassing behavior makes use of digital data (photos, videos, posts, messages, and pages) in a range of private and public settings (including social media). Secondly, harassment that causes a person to feel intimidated, exploited, or coerced, such as being compelled to participate in sexual behavior online or being blackmailed with sexually explicit information is prohibited. Third, sexual violence that causes victims to be isolated from particular groups or communities as a result of the sexual nature of the abuse. Finally, someone may make sex demands via verbal or written remarks or writings.

Online sexual harassment is harassment that comes to light as a result of a big, but inadequate reporting and management system. Despite the fact that these crimes may have a long-term impact, offenders have a higher chance of committing them again since the law is not yet prepared to deter and punish them effectively. For example, some criminals create fake social media accounts in the victim's name and photo, after which they behave improperly in order to damage the victim's reputation. This kind of internet abuse may result in criminal prosecution or penalties for defamation if it continues for an extended period.

The information was gathered via a survey that was performed on September 11, 2018 by researchers utilizing a Google Form. The material for the research was collected from 104 respondents, whose birth years ranged from 1980 to 2000, who participated in a survey on sexual harassment on social media platforms. The questionnaire was completed by a large number of informants, including as many as 77.9 percent of those aged 18–22 years, 15.4 percent of those aged 23–27 years, 4.8 percent of those aged 28–32 years, and 1.9 percent of those aged 33–38 years. The results revealed that as many as 66.3 percent of those aged 18–22 years already knew what the word sexuation meant. Thus, 33.6 percent of those polled continue to express a lack of understanding and confusion about what constitutes sexual harassment on social media.

When the world was shocked by the rape scene of a 15-year-old girl, which was broadcast live on Facebook Live in Chicago, United States, sexual harassment grabbed headlines once again in recent years. Even worse, none of the 40 people who attended the live performance reported it to the police. The first juvenile suspect in the Facebook rape investigation was arrested, according to Chicago police spokesman Anthony Gugliemi, who announced the arrest on his Twitter account on Saturday night (1/4/2017).

Sexual harassment on social media platforms is becoming a more widely discussed topic in the media. Millennials are intrinsically connected to the problem of sexual harassment as social media users, whether as perpetrators, victims, or those who are exposed to it on social media.
platforms like Facebook and Twitter. Due to the fact that various types and categories of online sexual harassment can be found on almost every social media site, it is expected that the problem of sexual harassment on social media will serve as an example for a generation that is unfamiliar with the word and will serve as a model for future generations. Because it is not well known to the general public, many individuals consider it to be a regular occurrence and a practical joke, which is understandable. Even while sexual harassment is not a laughing matter, it may have long-term legal and psychological consequences. Accordingly, researchers are interested in digging further into perceptions and psychological dynamics of the millennial generation's coping strategies against sexual harassment on social media, which they employ regardless of the situations in which they are confronted with, perpetrate, or are the target of such harassment.

**The Effect of Social Media on Sexual Behaviour**

Everyone has access to a variety of various kinds of information, including material that contains explicit sexual situations or references. Currently available media, both electronic and print, often contains presentations that are unsuitable for children and adolescents to consume. Another trend that is growing in popularity these days is the existence of well-known social networking sites such as Facebook or Friendster on the internet. Teenagers are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of social media, which outweigh the positive ones. The positive aspects of social media include the ability to connect with others and obtain current knowledge via other people's status updates.

The negative aspects include invasion of privacy, addiction, and interference with study time, as well as the ability to influence teenagers to participate in free sex through other people's status updates. As a consequence of adolescents' incapacity to adapt, they will experience problems such as self-doubt, feelings of insecurity, and thoughts of failure (Iwaniec et al., 2006). The desire to be accepted by their peer group is what drives teenagers to make strides ahead in order to achieve acceptance. Unfortunately, if a youngster has evil pals, it is probable that he or she may acquire some of their bad characteristics as well. In other words, peers may have either a positive or negative impact on teenagers, and having wicked friends increases the chance of teens becoming as bad as their peers.

People acquire a sense of their own identity (ego) throughout adolescence, seeing themselves as unique human beings who are prepared to take on certain societal roles as a result of their experiences. This is the moment at which the individual begins to realize the inherent qualities in himself, such as his varied likes and dislikes, the future goals he wants to achieve, and the power and desire to have an impact on his or her own destiny. Identity against identity ambiguity is the stage at which the ego has and combines the qualities, abilities, and skills required for identifying with like-minded people, adapting to one's social environment, protecting against various threats, and dealing with various problems. Adolescents engage in all of these behaviors in order to gain acceptance within their peer group.

Even though social media is one of the media sources that teens use to get information about sexuality, teenagers also use television, magazines, and other outlets to satisfy their sexual curiosity, so they do not rely only on social media to fulfill their sexual curiosity. Popular music videos that air on television often include explicit sex scenes. Researchers discovered that adolescents who regularly watch television shows that include explicit sexual images are more likely to engage in sexual encounters than adolescents who do not regularly watch television shows with graphic sexual scenes (Parkes et al., 2013). Other kinds of media, such as television, may broadcast pornographic material alongside internet-based media (social media), and internet-based media (social media) is not the only type of media that may offer pornographic content. Specifically, it is said that social media has minimal impact on adolescents' sexual
behavior and that television and films with longer running times have a larger impact on adolescents' sexual behavior.

Material posted on social media has a minimal effect on adolescent sexual behavior, according to research (Hald et al., 2013; Lee et al., 2016). The results also suggest that information posted on social media has minimal impact on adolescent sexual behavior, which is consistent with previous research. Consequently, it is concluded that social media has no impact on teenagers’ attitudes about sexual activity, due to the fact that adolescents in both urban and rural areas do not use social media to acquire reproductive health information. Teenagers in both urban and rural areas are unconcerned about reproductive health problems such as knowledge of teenage sexual behavior, virginity, marriage, and pregnancy, suggesting that adolescents are continuing to use the phrase.

**Conclusion**

Adolescents’ inability to adapt will result in issues such as self-doubt, feelings of insecurity, and emotions of failure. Having naughty friends raises the likelihood of teens being bad as well. Adolescents who watch television that contains graphic sexual scenes are more likely to engage in sexual interactions. Social media has no effect on teenagers' views of sexual activity, according to a new study. The findings indicate that the information shared on social media has a little effect on teenage sexual activity. However, adolescents in urban and rural regions do not utilize social media to obtain reproductive health information.

**References**

Alsop, R. (2008). *The trophy kids grow up: How the millennial generation is shaking up the workplace*. John Wiley & Sons.

Cole, J. (2014). *The new Arabs: How the millennial generation is changing the Middle East*. Simon and Schuster.

Dabija, D. C., Bejan, B. M., & Dinu, V. (2019). *HOW SUSTAINABILITY ORIENTED IS GENERATION Z IN RETAIL? A LITERATURE REVIEW*. Transformations in Business & Economics, 18(2).

Eckstein, J. J., & Danbury, C. (2020). What is violence now?: A grounded theory approach to conceptualizing technology-mediated abuse (TMA) as spatial and participatory. *The Electronic Journal of Communication*, 29(3-4).

Elder, G. H., & Johnson, M. K. (2018). The life course and aging: Challenges, lessons, and new directions. In *Invitation to the life course: Toward new understandings of later life* (pp. 49-81). Routledge.

Fromm, J., & Read, A. (2018). *Marketing to Gen Z: The rules for reaching this vast--and very different--generation of influencers*. Amacom.

Hald, G. M., Kuyper, L., Adam, P. C., & de Wit, J. B. (2013). Does Viewing Explain Doing? Assessing the Association Between Sexually Explicit Materials Use and Sexual Behaviors in a Large Sample of Dutch Adolescents and Young Adults. *The journal of sexual medicine*, 10(12), 2986-2995.

Hay, J. B., Pierrehumbert, J. B., Walker, A. J., & LaShell, P. (2015). Tracking word frequency effects through 130 years of sound change. *Cognition*, 139, 83-91.

Hinduja, S., & Patchin, J. W. (2014). *Bullying beyond the schoolyard: Preventing and responding to cyberbullying*. Corwin Press.

Iwaniec, D., Larkin, E., & Higgins, S. (2006). Research review: Risk and resilience in cases of emotional abuse. *Child & Family Social Work*, 11(1), 73-82.
Lee, C. H., Moak, S., & Walker, J. T. (2016). Effects of self-control, social control, and social learning on sexting behavior among South Korean youths. *Youth & Society, 48*(2), 242-264.

Parkes, A., Wight, D., Hunt, K., Henderson, M., & Sargent, J. (2013). Are sexual media exposure, parental restrictions on media use and co-viewing TV and DVDs with parents and friends associated with teenagers' early sexual behaviour?. *Journal of adolescence, 36*(6), 1121-1133.