

Modern tendencies in the publication of Pornography in Sri Lanka

(with special reference to Blog Sites)

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Abstract- Pornographic Publications carry a longstanding history in the publication world. It is considered as causing adverse effects to the society. In most of the countries in the world, Pornographic publications are censored by enacting laws. In our country, this adversity has unfortunately developed up to infelicitous extents through printed media, CDs, DVDs, Blog sites, social networks and websites. Pornographic publications are restrained to a certain extent by enacting laws in Sri Lanka at present. With the advent of modern media, these laws, rules and regulations are subjected to a serious challenge. Modern media could especially be identified as forms of media features operating over the internet.

Blog site is one of the media forms that is effectively operative at present all over the world. Constructing a Blog site is not a difficult task. There are Blog sites that are freely available within the Internet. Emergence of Blog sites in the modern world are increasing gradually. Apart from the above, in Sri Lanka too, Blog sites are increasing at a speedy level. This study is conducted on pornographic publications promoted by Blog sites. Facts related to the tendency of pornographic publications and the nature of pornographic publications presented by Blog sites are ascertained by this research.

Another objective of this research is to obtain a rough idea about the expansion of the legal basis related to pornographic publications. This study was conducted in association of Blog sites related to the Internet, selecting "Sinhala welakatha" as the sample of the study, the term used for pornography in the modern phraseology. This research is carried out in terms of a content analysis.

This study revealed that the Blog Sites publicized in Sinhala language in Sri Lanka as a modern propensity are diffusing with a large number of distinguished characteristics. Due to identical features of Blog sites and also as it is publicized in Sinhala media, pornographic publications carry its inherent features as revealed by the study. This study enabled the researcher to reduce that Blog sites are capable of evading the legal frame in publicizing photographs. The most important conclusion of this research is that Blog sites are developing with immanent features socializing them with the evasion from the legal frame.

Index Terms- Sinhala welakatha, pornography, Blog sites, Sri Lanka, modern media.

I. INTRODUCTION

Pornography is a form of publication with a longstanding history. In Sinhala Language, the term vulgar is used as a substitute expression for pornography. Sri Sumangala Dictionary analyzes pornography as a vocable related to rustic terms such as abhorrence, shyness or inauspiciousness. It also indicates that vulgar conversations are similar to rustic talks. Dictionaries define the word pornography as indecency and the word pornography as obscenity. Professor SunandaMahendra in his Communication Vocabulary, pornography is analyzed as an erotic, a lustful, a heterodox presentation, through written, audio or visual media by words, pictures or photographs.

Webster Dictionary defines pornography publications depiction of erotic behavior by material such as books, photographs, pictures, magazines or acts in sensational manner arousing sexual excitement.

Pornography could be classified into two categories namely;

1. Erotica
2. Exotica

Erotica is a sensual literary publication arousing sexual stimulation merely through external nature of exposure.

Exotica is demonstrating of abnormal sexual behavior publicly or individually. Applications namely Soft Porno and Hard Porno are also used in the same manner. Soft Porno is the presentation of external eroticism. Hard Porno is the presentation of abnormal sexual behavior.

Pornography publications do possess a longstanding history. In ancient Greece, the term pornographos was used to introduce the documents related to life behaviors of prostitutes. The English term 'pornography' has derived from the above Greek origin.

There are many instances in the world where classical compositions have been censored considering as pornographic publications. Screening of the film "Kamasutra" directed by Mira Nair was prohibited in India. Staging of "GehenuWedaArambathi", the afterpiece of "Lysistrata" of Greek playwright named "Aristophanes" was prohibited in Sri Lanka. "Lady Chatterley's Lover" of D. H. Lawrence was banned at the beginning considering it as an obscene composition. Russian writer, Vladimir Nabokov's "Lolita" is another example of banning. The two films titled "Hail Mary" (1985) and "Las Tango Paris" (1972) were also banned treating them as Pornographic productions.

According to Oxford Dictionary, obscene publications are printed or visual material intended to stimulate sexual excitement rather than aesthetic and sensitive feelings that arouse sexual inclinations. In this context it appears that pornographic publications are material that television programs, books and pictures etc. regarded as an obsessive interest but not the objective of the films, plays and novels mentioned above.

When considering about the history of pornography publications of Sri Lanka, it could be mentioned that amatory and lustful features appeared in magazines named "Latapata", "Athirasa", "Ekameka" etc. that were published during the 1920 decade. However, it could be observed that there was a considerable development in the publication of pornographic publications during 1990's. The reason for this situation is that any obscene material could be brought into the country which created the free market under the open economy including the following changes that took place during the above period, namely,

- Increase in the use of televisions
- Importation of foreign films
- Establishment of offset printing
- Warfare environment
- Youth unrest due to unemployment
- Digital technological implements and
- Establishment of Free Trade Zones

During this period, pornographic publications were socialized through printed publications like newspapers, magazines and other printed material and by electronic media through VHSs, CDs and DVDs.

There is a legal foundation practiced in any country of the world. Legal points have been presented regarding pornographic publications by American Legislation and various subsequent Acts and Amendments. British Government also has enacted laws regarding pornographic publications namely, documents, stage plays and movies.

In Sri Lanka, laws have been enacted regarding pornographic publications as follows;

01. Section 285, 286, 287 of Penal Code.
02. Pornographic Writing Ordinance No. 04 of 1927.
03. Newspaper Board Ordinance No. 05 of 1973.
04. Pornographic Ordinance includes Law Code of Newspaper Board and internet publications with the following Ordinances.
05. Communication Technology & Information Ordinance No. 27 of 2003.
06. Computer Crime Ordinance No. 24 of 2007.

Details of Sections 285, 286 & 287 are as follows;

Section 285 - Any person selling, distributing, importing, renting, printing or displaying any vulgar book, paper, picture, drawing, photograph or exhibiting vulgar publications.

Section 286 - Any person possessing any of the above vulgar publication for distribution or exhibiting.

Section 287 - Any person singing a vulgar song or expressing a vulgar wordings causing displeasure to others will be charged in terms of the above sections of the penal code.

As these facts were amended in 1995, it confirms that pornography publications had a strong impact. These amendments included engagement of children for pornographic publications and presentation and circulating pornographic publications.

According to Pornographic Publication Act No. 04 of 1977, printing or circulating pornographic publications, pictures, photographs, notices, cutouts, films DVDs, CDs for business purposes or possessing them will be a chargeable offence.

According to Sri Lanka Press Board Ordinance No. 05 of 1973, any person publicizes or trying to publicize any vulgar publication will be liable to be charged in Courts as an offence. Further, any person possessing any of such vulgar or pornographic publications will be liable to be charged in Courts considering it as an offence causing corruption or defilement.

According to Press Board Rule No. 08 of 1981, any journalist should not publicize any publication that promotes sadism, dissipation or violence and that no publicity should be given to any publication that causes corruption or depravity to the reader. These facts confirm that laws, rules and regulations have been enacted against vulgar and obscene publications in an effective background.

At present, the methodology of receiptship of pornography is the Internet. Printed media, CDs and DVDs on pornography has become defunct and obsolete. Instead of the above, web sites, Blog sites, social net web sites have substituted to be used by downloading or otherwise for the Sri Lankan recipients with vulgar and pornographic multimedia. More opportunities are open for the recipients in pornography with the advent of new media. According to the statistics of 2013, 12% of global web sites devote amplitude for pornography. (<http://www.dailyinforgraphic.com>)

Apart from Audio, video, images and text files, these web sites, facilitate services in various ways in supplying prostitutes for clients. Presently the supply of pansies is also facilitated through web sites. Special attention of this study on the nature of modern pornographic publications of Sri Lanka, is paid towards the blog sites. Presently, in addition to web sites in the modern media, new tendencies have emerged namely, Blog sites, Social network web sites.

When considering about pornographic publications of Sri Lanka, Blog sites could be treated as having a special significance. Blog sites are tiny web sites. It is not a complex site as a web site. Blog sites facilitate the fulfillment of exchanging a single fact, opinion or an idea within the network. Erudite defining a blog site compares a web site to a book and a blog site to a diary. If a website is compared to a novel, a blog site is a short story. A Blog site can facilitate releasing messages or any expression on a single subject using a simple method. Blog sites became more popular within alternative media and citizenship media fields. Blog sites possess the qualities such as comprising of a common format, convenience in operations, multimedia facility, responsiveness and easy circulation.

During the present times, various professionals, social workers, erudite and various Institutions use Blog sites for their

communication purposes. Blog sites can be operated easily as it is not complexed as web sites. By now, a large number of Blog sites have been created throughout the world. This media has now been developed in developing Sri Lanka and India as social media.

There are pornographic publication Blog sites in the world. BlogSpot.com and WordPress.com are some of them out of which facilities are provided to create free Blog sites. Blog sites of BlogSpot.com category are popular mostly in Sri Lanka. At present there are facilities to use any language through the internet. Sinhala Unicode, are also available in Sri Lanka. There is a possibility of creating Blog sites similar to printed pornographic publications using Sinhala Unicode. As the Articles and Posts including Blog sites are in the mother language, it is helpful for assumptions. Also, the Blog sites are with a significant characteristic of index storage facility, it is easy to retrieve any article at any time. This study becomes important as a content analysis of pornographic Blog sites with Sinhala publications.

II. RESEARCH PROBLEM

Problem of this research is whether the pornographic publications in Blog sites are able to evade the laws enacted by the government. Attention has to be paid regarding the fact as to whether these pornographic publications are capable of evading the laws against the matter operating the blog sites with modern inherent characteristics. The reason is that a large number of Sinhala Blog sites have expanded through the network.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

Objectives of this research is to identify the nature of Blog sites that are creating pornographic publications and to apprehend as to how the Blog Sites are operating extraneous of the enacted laws against pornographic publications. Main objective of this research is to ascertain as to whether the characteristics of Blog sites is the reason for its expansion.

IV. METHODOLOGY

Sample

This study conducted on Pornographic Publications of Sri Lanka is a Content Analysis. 10 Blog Sites were selected as the sample. The selection was made considering three factors as follows;

01. Being updated
02. Being more than 100 articles
03. Preference in viewing through Google Search Engine

10 Blog sites appear below with Sinhala Welakatha which is the specialty of this study.

table 1:Name of Blog sites

	Name of Blog site
1	http://walkatha.xxxlk.info
2	https://kaamakatha.wordpress.com
3	http://gindaralanka.blogspot.com
4	http://gindara-sinhala-welakatha.blogspot.com
5	http://ammawalkatha.blogspot.com
6	http://wal-katha-lokaya.blogspot.com
7	http://aluthsinhalawelakatha.blogspot.com
8	http://walkatha9.blogspot.com
9	https://xslg.wordpress.com
10	https://sinhalawalpituwa.wordpress.com

For these publications, several titles such as Welakatha, Walkatha, Sexsualkatha, Sex katha, vulgar page and ammwelakatha have been used. 70% of these Blog Sites are of BlogSpot category. 30% belongs to WordPress category. In all Blog sites, the articles are in Sinhala. In order to prepare the sample of this study, searches were made under the label of Sinhala Welakatha. These pornographic publications hold preference within the Blog Sites under the Welakatha label. The term 'wela' is a popular rustic expression used to describe pornographic publications. Specialty in the category of Sinhala Welakatha is a narrative in Blog sites. There are various photographic Blog sites and video Blog sites as well within the internet. No Sinhala or Sri Lankan identity could be identified in these Blog sites. As these Sinhala Welakatha Blog sites are composed using Sinhala Blog sites, they could be categorized as Sinhala media Blog sites.

Collection of Data

Collection of data was conducted analyzing several main points as follows;

01. Number of articles consisted within the Blog sites.
02. Contents of these articles or narratives.
03. Categorization of contents.
04. Nature of photographs nurturing these narratives.
05. Updating
06. Responses
07. Other relationships connected these Blog sites (eg: Social network web pages)
08. Other services provided these Blog sites
09. Regarding Blog sites maintained by paying charges.
10. Whether generating income

Data Analysis and Findings

The number of articles consisting in the selected 10 Blog sites appears below. The significance noticed when considering about these Blog sites is that there is an annual increase of 60%. 20% out of the above 40% has been created within 2015, the final year. 10% of the articles has been reduced. The value of the above 20% has been fluctuated. The number of articles in Aluth Sinhala Welakatha Blog site of 2013 records the highest value among Blog sites, accounting for 538 articles. But this Blog site has not been updated after December 2015. The general value of articles is about 320.

table 2: The annually increase of articles in blog sites

Name of Blog site	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
http://walkatha.xxxlk.info	1	25	156	206	216	407
https://kaamakatha.wordpress.com					73	82
http://gindaralanka.blogspot.com					25	93
http://gindara-sinhala-welakatha.blogspot.com					54	26
http://ammawalkatha.blogspot.com						64
http://wal-katha-lokaya.blogspot.com				18	42	55
http://aluthsinhalawelakatha.blogspot.com			31	538	9	58
http://walkatha9.blogspot.com						150
https://xslg.wordpress.com	15	25	48	59	173	251
https://sinhalawalpituwa.wordpress.com			44	56	67	88

Contents of articles

It is a specialty that the contents of articles remain as a phrase or as a narration. It is explained 100% purely in Sri Lanka. These stories can be seen in single form or as a line of stories. Photographs are used to promote the Stories. Stories have been composed in first person and second person sentiments. They have been entered in PDF, JPG and Text file nature. Web sites enabling direct conversations are 60% while 40% remains as links directly connected with individual topics and mostly, the same story will appear in different Blog sites too, at times.

Classification of Articles

These Articles can be classified according to their outlook.

- Stories about copulation between mother and son.
- Stories about copulation between the family members (mother, father, daughter, son).
- Stories about copulation between relations. (aunt, uncle, elder brother, elder sister, younger sister, younger brother, grandfather, grandmother).
- Stories about copulation with neighbors.
- Stories about copulation with friends.
- Stories about copulation with more number of men & women.
- Stories about copulation with teachers.
- Stories about copulation with adults.

Further these Articles can be classified as sexual intercourse between wife & husband, lovers, illegal paramours, erotic sexual relationships, sadism and intercourse between own sisters and brothers, stories about lesbians, gay boys, father and daughter connections etc. Sexual relationships among school children, gang rapes and about sexual relationships among all the members of families. Apart from the above, sexual relationships between mother and son are titled as AmmaWelakatha which are presented by 90% of the Blog sites. This type of Blog sites initiated operations in the year 2015. In Eastern countries of the world mother concept is treated as a reputed cultural factor. It has been subjected to abuse seriously. These stories include not only about the relationship between mother and son but more

about mothers having sex with outsiders as a normal practice. Blog sites containing stories about sex between sisters (lesbianism) is close upon 80%.

Usage of Photographs

Several specialties could be identified in the regulation of photographs in Blog sites. Photographs have been used in 80% of the Blog sites. A classification of such photographs appears below.

- Photographs of naked people
- Photographs illustrating sexual relationships
- Photographs of underwear
- Photographs of half-naked couples

Naked photographs also can be classified in many ways. Out of the photographs of individuals 100% are of females. 80% of Blog sites use pictures of females. Its sequence of nude and seminude photographs is 40% and 60% respectively. Among them certain pictures are there with covered faces and with unfocussed faces. 40% of the Blog sites display faces of about 40% of the nude figures, while 60% remains unfocussed. 100% of these Blog sites produce semi – nude photographs. Such publications include photographs of school girls, middle aged females, young Sri Lankan models and actresses. In certain Blog sites, underwear of females is displayed 50% of the photographs are of nude middle aged females whose faces are covered which takes a higher percentage. Naked photographs of actresses in Western, Indian and other films are displayed with engrafted faces of reputed Sinhala film actresses and sometimes with the badges and school uniforms of school girls in reputed schools engrafted with naked bodies of foreign actresses and models.

Photographs are centered in Blog sites as an attractive approach for the story. At certain times, there are instances where action was taken by the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to suspend certain Blog sites on the instructions issued by the Child Protection Authority. One of the Blog sites selected for this study is also banned by the Child Protection Authority. Reasons for banning could be identified after an analysis.

- Name of the Blog site

- Nature of photographs
- Other services provided

are the facts required for the assumption in respect of the regulatory suspension The Banned Blog site is with a large number of nude photographs and with various sexual behaviors. Apart from the above, this Blog site provides the services of Pornography video models and chat room facilities fulfilling other demands of the regular clients. Similarly, this Blog site has mentioned the word 'sex' in its name. It could be concluded that the above reasons may have led to the ban. Other Blog sites are careful not to include the term 'sex' in names and also the nude pictures are not directly visible. Sexual relationships are also not to be seen freely. Such Blog sites do not have pornographic videos as in the case of Western Blog sites.

It was observed that there is a speedy encouragement for responding towards Blog site stories. The average of response which was 3 for a story on the 31st of January this year (2016) increased up to 12 by the end of July (31/07/2016). Responses such as requesting for the association of females giving telephone numbers to respond are cases that can be seen in these Blog sites. These sites provide services of relationship promotions. In the meantime, there are writers who are willing to join these Blog sites to provide compositions. It is also noticed that true stories too have been presented as narratives of Blog sites.

90% of these Blog sites are Free Blog sites. Only one Blog site is maintained by paying charges. It has been in operation for a long period with the provision of many other services. It owns a large capacity of services such as You Tube and Facebook pages with an extensive share network. When analyzing as to how this Blog site was successful to maintain it for such a long time, the followings were revealed.

01. No nude pictures are used
02. The word 'sex' is not used
03. Viewing as Text Files

Although, there were stories belong to various categorizations, they were able to maintain the Blog site due to above reasons for 7 years without being subjected to the regulatory procedure. There is a possible of gaining access to this Blog site through other different names. Therefore, it could be seen that there is a possibility of maintain Blog sites by changing names as follows;

eg:- gindaralanka.blogspot.com=xslgs.wordpress.com
Kamakatha.wordpress.com
=Kamakatha.blogspot.com

Photograph albums and video albums of these Blog sites are available. Those are linked separately. Any Blog site possesses the ability of sharing the blog identity. Any Article can be shared with the social network and linkages namely, email, twitter and Facebook. These Blog sites have social network sites too. They are mostly Facebook fan pages. 80% of the Blog sites possess a Facebook page. Average value of online visitor of all these Blog sites for a moment is 10.

Vulgar newspapers and printed pornographic photographs have been entered into Blog sites during the 1990 decade 80% of the Blog sites have been updated up to 30th June 2016. The balance 20% have been updated up to the end of 2015.

Responses also have increased gradually in every Blog site and the number of members through online too has increased considerably.

V. CONCLUSION

The conclusion that can be arrived at from the available data is that the Blog sites with the Welakathalabel carrying out operations without being subjected to Regulatory Laws of the Commission, causes an adversary effect towards the society through the publication of pornographic media in Sinhala. There are Blog sites which are not regulated by the National Telecommunication Regulatory Commission. Blog sites can be maintained legally according to the prescribed rules and regulations of the Commission.

Blog sites are free media. It is a media that can be created by anybody. Increase of Articles, updating, changes of names of Blog sites, increase of responses indicate the development of its expansion. Sinhala rustic terms used as Sinhala Wela indicates a value of 453000 in the Google Index of the Internet. It shows that there had been a large number of Articles are included in it.

These Blog sites become popular due to their publication of Pornographic literature and its expansion. It emerges ethical problems in the society.

'Amma' concept in Sri Lankan culture, within the relationship circle is severely damaged by adapting such a virtuous character for Blog sites especially where pornography is publicized. Such publications have been socialized mostly because they are in the mother language with conceivable nature. Another reason is the inherent characteristics of the Blog sites. Sex related matters increase the encouragement through publications including videos especially because the explanations are in Sinhala language. However, the course of engraving the faces of school girls, young girls, innocent actresses etc. should be stopped forthwith because it is illegal and prohibited by Law.

Finally, it has to be concluded that there is no formal and legal background or a foundation to regulate pornographic publications in the internet. Attention of the authorities should be paid on the above matter.

There is a serious damage caused to the society by pornographic publications and concludes that Sinhala Blogs do not get caught to the legal frame of the judiciary.

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