Shock Study: Marriage Rate Declines with Porn Use, Threatening Economy, Society

By Paul Bedard
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Pornography is replacing the desire among young men for marriage, according to a new study that finds males are chasing "low-cost sexual gratification" on the web over a wife and family.

"Traditionally, one of the reasons to enter into a marriage was sexual gratification. But as options for sexual gratification outside of marriage have grown, the need for a marriage to serve this function is diminishing," said the report.

The report published by Germany's Institute for the Study of Labor and co-authored by a West Chester University of Pennsylvania professor suggested that the government crack down on porn access, especially as more and easier tools to tap into the Internet, such as smartphones, expand. Saving marriage, said the report, will help the economy and society.

The study is being highlighted by the group Morality in Media, which sent it to Secrets Tuesday. "Pornography is a marriage killer and thus it has monumental negative ramifications for society's future," said Patrick A. Trueman, president of the group. "Research has shown for some time that porn use in marriage destroys the marital bond, but now we can see that porn use destroys even the desire to get married," he added.

Researchers analyzed data from 1,512 surveys completed by American men aged 18-35 between 2000-2004. What they found is that porn use makes marriage unappealing. The study is titled: "Are Pornography and Marriage Substitutes for Young Men?"

The researchers were interested in how declining marriage rates impact society and the economy. They said that "stable marriages create substantial welfare improvements for society, especially to the degree that marital stability produces high-quality children."

Porn use, they said, can be credited with cutting the marriage rate. They cited statistics showing that men 25-34 are six times less likely to be married than the same age group was in 1970. They also found that divorce rates are twice what they were in 1950.

"Given the rapid decline in marital formation and stability in western countries, a natural question is...

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