



Woman in Culture and Arts

Legal Analysis of Pornography on Instagram with an Emphasis on Gender

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Article type: Research Article</p> <p>Article history: Received: 2 October 2024 Received in revised form: 26 October 2025 Accepted: 4 April 2026 Published online: 1 July 2026</p> <p>Keywords: <i>Cyber Crimes,</i> <i>Cyber Space,</i> <i>Media Rights,</i> <i>Pornography.</i></p>	<p>Introduction Pornography is one of the behaviors that violate public modesty and decent morals. One of the platforms for the distribution of pornography is cyberspace. Observing the rules of public modesty in the virtual space is doubly critical due to the speed and simplicity of access. Instagram is an image-based program that has evolved into a potent medium for rapid communication with the audience by enabling the sharing of video content in the form of posts, stories, and live broadcasts. The necessity of this study has been prompted by the accessibility of pornography on Instagram, which is a content that can contain both material and spiritual elements of crime. The Islamic Penal Code, particularly the Computer Crimes Code, in Iran, has established the criminal liability of pornographers. Presently, the virtual realm has enabled the provision of both written and visual forms of pornography. Textual pornography is presented in the form of a narrative, while visual pornography can be effortlessly deployed and displayed in the virtual realm through the use of photographs, graphic illustrations, and videos. The field is advantageous for producers of pornographic content due to the capabilities of Instagram. What is the legal response to this? The Islamic Penal Code, particularly the Computer Crimes Law, in Iran, has established the criminal liability of pornographers. According to Iranian law, sharing pornography, even to less than ten people, is punishable by fine. In Instagram, the approximate number of audience of the published content can be obtained through the number of likes or the number of submissions of each post.</p> <p>Methodology Pornography posted on Instagram by Iranian and Farsi-speaking users is the sole focus of this investigation. In this article, the content analysis method and its adherence to documents are employed. The researcher has compared the existing and related contents with the Cods in order to accomplish the goals and research questions.</p> <p>Results The process of qualitative analysis in semiotics involves the integration of reality, categories of representation, and ideology in a manner that is both natural and coherent. The semiotics derived from the examined samples suggest that the following formats are employed in various pornographic techniques on Instagram: The use of internal contact numbers with internal operators, the use of vibrant colors, and the inclusion of the letters of the Latin word "sex" in the user name Employing letters, numerals, and words that are well-known to the audience, Utilizing satire and religious themes to garner additional attention; Using textual content in Latin and themes that contain sexual terms, as well as specific textual content with a specific structure; By employing nude and semi-nude images and a unique composition, the utilization of commercial and advertising cover, as well as materials concerning family health and marital issues.</p> <p>The phrase "publishing criminal content" will be displayed to the audience upon opening a page on Instagram that has been blocked for judicial reasons. However, there is no indication of the crime that has occurred. It appears that the simultaneous announcement of</p>

the type of offense and the blocking of the page is a warning to cyberspace users to prevent the publication of pornography.

Additionally, the crime rate has increased due to the sluggish pace of legislation and the absence of criminal laws that are suitable for the ease with which crimes can be committed in cyberspace.

Spreading prostitution and being interested in it is an act that is condemned in Islam and its perpetrators are promised hell. Sharing, which is considered immoral and contrary to chastity, is undoubtedly an example of the dissemination of prostitution. This writing is corroborated by an examination of the verses of the Qur'an and the traditions of the imams. The circle of examples and methods of dissemination, citation, and retelling has also expanded as the advancement of science has facilitated the availability of tools. Sharing in virtual spaces is undoubtedly one of the evolving methods for the dissemination of pornography. In addition, this act is regarded as one of the main sins due to the expectation of severe punishment for the dissemination of prostitution.

Conclusion

The dissemination of harmful actions is occasionally accomplished through speech, writing, and visualization. Certainly, the impact of publishing prostitution in the form of irreversible, continuous, and easily accessible images is more detrimental. The rapidity of republishing and sharing is one of the most critical characteristics of cyberspace crimes. Consequently, it is imperative to prioritize the protection of individuals from such content and to penalize the perpetrator. It is imperative to consider two factors in this context: first, the simplicity of a tool like Instagram is such that any user with a minimum age, literacy, and ability can use it. Secondly, a moderate level of legal knowledge and media literacy is required to comprehend the regulations that govern this space. In order to enhance the conditions of users and safeguard their rights against communication tools and social networks, it is crucial for cultural policymakers and legislators to consider these two points and reduce the distance between the two. Creating official pages that raise awareness about this is highly beneficial, as it ensures that the audience is informed about the perpetrators of cybercrimes and the application of restrictions. The lack of information and neglect of the punishment of those who perpetrate pornography in the cyberspace has established a foundation for similar criminal activities, as users are typically unaware of the specifics of the punishment. Additionally, the virtual nature of the activity may complicate the process of locating the criminal and conducting an investigation into the criminal offence; however, digital monitoring is one potential solution to this issue. Additionally, users must be cognizant of the legal implications of their actions in the virtual space, be present in the virtual space with a genuine and unambiguous identity, and be cognizant of digital surveillance.

Finally, the utilization of virtual space has become an unavoidable necessity in certain instances, resulting in the establishment of restrictions on users' ability to utilize this tool. In certain instances, these restrictions have actually increased the demand and adoption of the tool. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that users have the opportunity to make the most of these programs by promoting media literacy, enlightenment, and elevating awareness. Additionally, in order to enhance deterrence, it is imperative to examine the current inflation rate and implement a proportional monetary sanction.

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