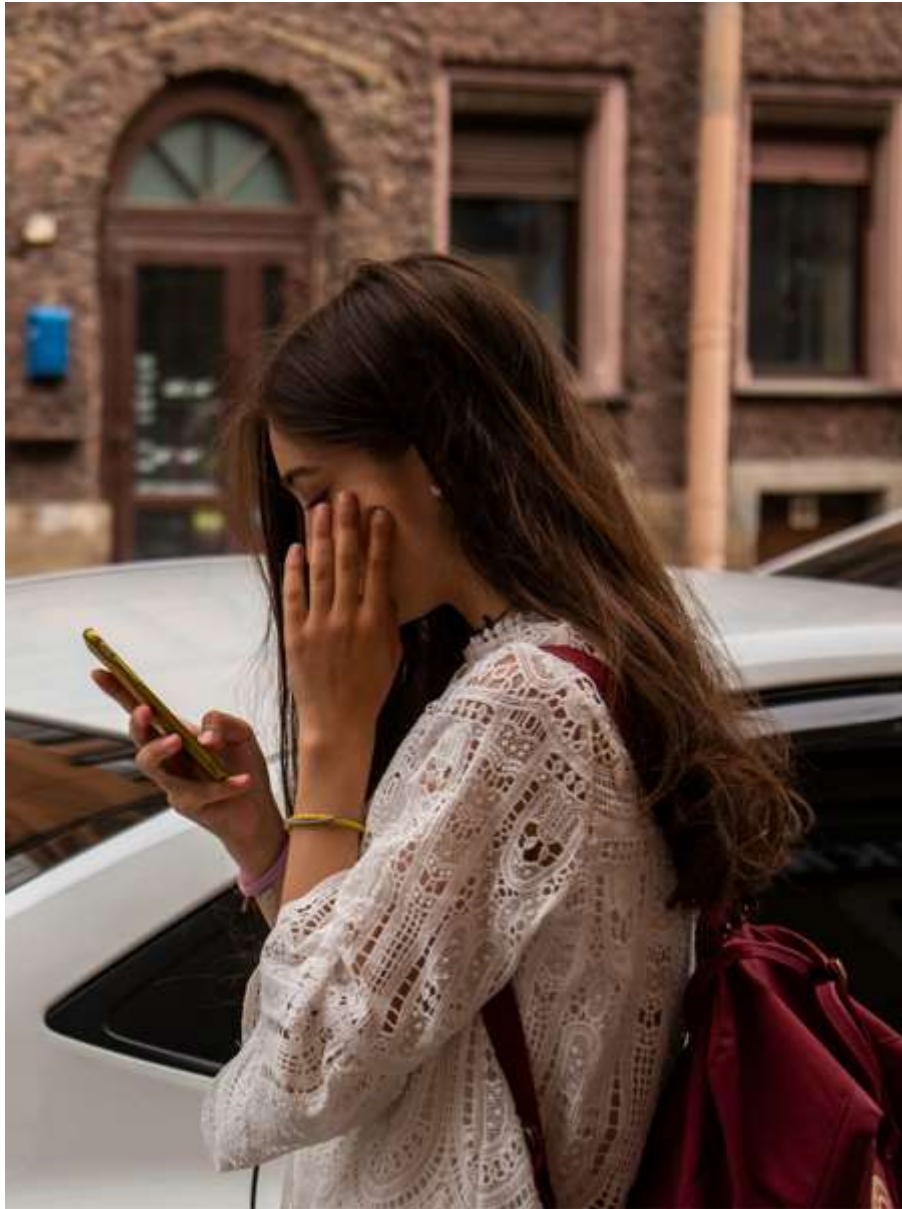# STOP
CHILD ABUSE

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STOP child abuse through effective training and augmented reality

MODULE 4
SEXTING

The STOP training activity
21/10/2021

Summary

1. Sexting, appropriate usage of digital contents and sociological factors.
2. Primary sexting and secondary sexting.
3. Risks related to sexting.
4. Health and social consequences of sexting.
5. Sexting prevention.
6. Youth Worker reaction to the child sexual abuse emerged from sexting.

1 Sexting

Voluntary exchange of sexual content through digital devices and applications or social networks that allow the sending of messages and images by means of instantaneous chats.

This practice is usually held between two **consenting persons** who form a couple and play an erotic game for reasons of physical distance, provoke arousal prior to a date or simply make the relationship less monotonous.

A positive sexting practice is made of a right balance between erotic and nudity, **trust and respect of privacy.**

1.Sociological factors

A child or a teenager is led to practice bad sexting because of the need of being accepted among their group of peers, that hide depression symptoms, disavowing the impact that actions carried out in the world of the Internet have on real life, in terms of consent and privacy.

1 Positive sexting

Trust: between the sharer of the explicit content and the receiver of it, who is meant to keep the image/text message from him/herself.

Consent: when sharing a received explicit content of someone to third parties, the subject of the content or its first sharer has to be asked for permission.

Cryptography: the usage of an application that does not require a telephone number and that encodes images, so to be deleted after being sought.

Tracing: canceling pictures and messages that include sexual content or using applications that eliminate or save those in a way that allows the owner of such digital material not to risk to see the proper images shared without consent.

Recognizability: when a person is willing to send nudes, it is quite better that the picture does not show a face or any feature that might lead back to someone, such as tattoos, scars, birthmarks.

2.Primary and Secondary Sexting

Primary sexting

act of sharing explicitly
sexual images of oneself

consent ✓

Secondary sexting

receiving and forwarding
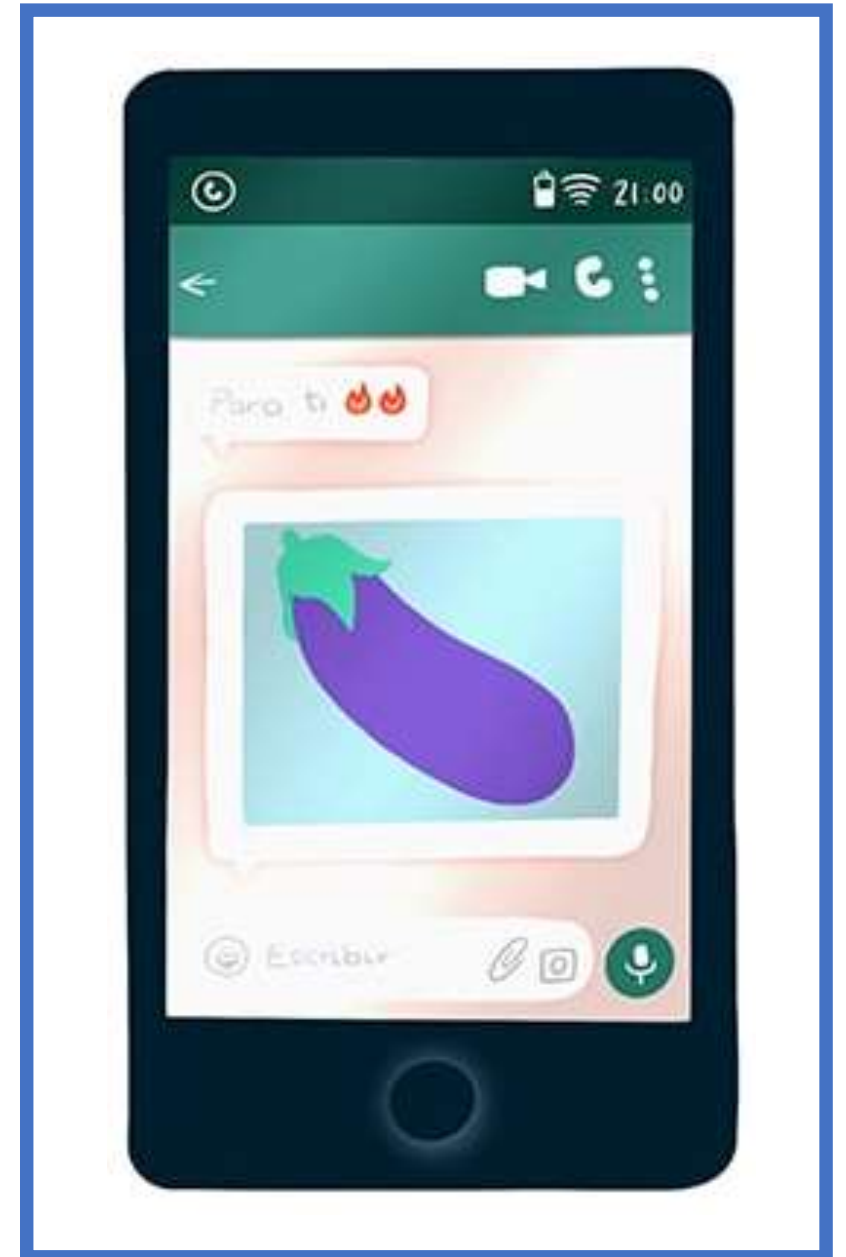someone else images or videos

consent ✗

2 Pornography

DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES:

◆ Sense of normalization

◆ Age issue

◆ Crime regulation

Whether it is because of an act of revenge or just to bully a peer, the manipulation of someone's private data is to be considered defamation and punished as a crime since it damages the victim's reputation and prestige.

3.Risks related to sexting

1. Invalidation of the own digital footprint
2. Cyberbullying

› Revenge porn
› Deep nude
› Sextortion
› Victim blaming (Slut shaming)
› Child pornography

4 Health effect

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES:

▲ Anxiety, depression, sense of distress

▲ Pro-anorexia and self-harming behaviors, or even suicidal attempts

▲ Dissociation, anger, and difficulties in engaging in romantic or sexual relationships **(PTSD)**

The social dimension interferes with the physical and mental wellness since the emotional impact on the victim is so strong that needs to be manifested. PTSD shows what is known as a seizure of the amygdala, whose right development in the child is key in order not to grow with stressors.

4 Social effect

CONSEQUENCES:

⚠ Feelings of regret, shame, vulnerability, search for isolation, and discomfort of staying in company

⚠ Hiding the situation from adults

⚠ Reception of hate messages and sexual advances

The humiliation and reputational damage to the online sphere can easily evolve into offline violence. The most detected forms of this phenomenon are linked to gendered sexual abuse, which not only harms the victim, but also roots shared erroneous trends and socio-cultural norms among the adults of the future.

5.Sexting prevention

*The **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Parliament and Council of 27 April 2016** "on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data" disposes:*

• **Art. 8 states the chance to exercise parental or guardian control on the child's consent** in relation with sensible data and information to be shared with information society services.

• **Art. 12 about media's controller providing transparent communication and plain language while informing a child** on the collection of personal data.

• **Art. 17 or "right to be forgotten"** states the right of the victim to see its exploited images or data to be deleted since "unlawfully processed" (think about revenge porn or deep nude).

5.Sexting prevention

> Age-oriented sexual information and digital education.

> Educate the adult references of children and youngsters to be up to date when it comes to knowing technologies and their harmful effects.

> Transmit the children and youngsters the importance of reporting to a trustful adult whenever they suspect that something wrong is occurring to them or an acquaintance,

> Cultivate communication and positive values of respect and dignity usually better dispose of children and Youth to behave with peers.

> Address the problem to a professional when in presence of obsessive behaviors of a child or a youngster.

6 Youth worker reaction

SCENARIOS THAT INVOLVES THE YOUTH WORKER:

- Suspect of the abuse

- Confession of the abuse

- Consequences of abuse

As in leisure time clubs and associations young people use to get engaged in personal relationships, every risk should be covered by policies and protocols to be known by all the staff members when to be activated.

6 Youth Worker reaction

ADVICE:

- Create a safe space

- Identify the goals

- The policies to apply should be accepted by all the youth workers

- Working personnel should periodically be trained on the emerging Youth issues, as sexting is

- Avoid denial or fear behaviors

- Assume a free from prejudice conduct

- Be ready to the possibility, that once the child sexual prevention protocol is active, victims could feel safe to raise their voice and finally confess past or current abuses perpetrated to their detriment.

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Thank you !!