



**Department of Media Studies and Journalism**

**Internship (Research) Report**

**Coping Sextortion: Exploring the Psychosocial Consequences and the  
Coping Strategies.**

**Fall 2025**

**Course Code: MSJ 4298**

**Submitted by**

**Name: Zamiul Haque**

**ID: 222012028**

**Submission Date: 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2025**

## Table of Contents

|                                                         |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----|
| PLAGIARISM DECLARATION .....                            | 2  |
| INTERNSHIP REPORT APPROVAL FORM .....                   | 3  |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....                                   | 4  |
| SELF-REFLECTION .....                                   | 5  |
| SUMMARY .....                                           | 6  |
| CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION .....                            | 7  |
| 1.1 Background of the Study .....                       | 7  |
| 1.2 Research Objectives .....                           | 9  |
| 1.3 Research Questions .....                            | 9  |
| 1.4 Significance of the Study .....                     | 9  |
| CHAPTER II STUDY FRAMEWORKS AND LITERATURE REVIEW ..... | 11 |
| 2.1 Literature Review .....                             | 11 |
| 2.1.1 Sextortion: Nature and Context. ....              | 11 |
| 2.1.2 Connecting Psychosocial Reality. ....             | 13 |
| 2.2 Theoretical Framework .....                         | 15 |
| 2.2.1 Erving Goffman's Stigma Theory .....              | 15 |
| 2.2.2 William Ryan's Blaming the Victim .....           | 16 |
| 2.3 Conceptual Framework .....                          | 17 |
| 2.4 Operational Definitions .....                       | 17 |
| References .....                                        | 20 |

## **PLAGIARISM DECLARATION**

1. I know that plagiarism means taking and using the ideas, writings, works or inventions of another as if they were one's own. I know that plagiarism not only includes verbatim copying, but also the extensive use of another person's ideas without proper acknowledgement (which includes the proper use of quotation marks). I know that plagiarism covers this sort of use of material found in textual sources and from the Internet.
2. I acknowledge and understand that plagiarism is wrong.
3. I understand that my research must be accurately referenced.
4. This assignment is my own work, or my group's own unique group assignment. I acknowledge that copying someone else's assignment, or part of it, is wrong, and that submitting identical work to others constitutes a form of plagiarism.
5. I have not allowed, nor will I in the future allow, anyone to copy my work with the intention of passing it off as their own work.

Name: Zamiul Haque  
ULAB ID: 222012028

Signature: *Sancheer*

**INTERNSHIP REPORT APPROVAL FORM**

Student Name: Zamiul Haque

ID No: 222012028

Major: Communication for Development

Year: 2025

Local Phone: +8801755701005

Email: zamiul.haque.msaj@ulab.edu.bd

---

INTERNSHIP/PROJECT INFORMATION

Internship Organization/Project: Masters in Communication, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

Internship /Project Report

Topic: Coping Sextortion: Exploring the Psychosocial Consequences and Coping Strategies.

Semester (Tick one): ☐ Spring 2025 ☐ Summer 2025 ☒ Fall 2025

---

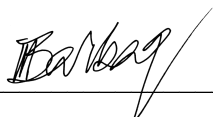
Advisor APPROVAL

(Please place a Tick)

☐ Approved ☐ Not Approved ☒ Partial Re-write ☐ Full Re-write

Remarks (If Not Approved/Pretrial/Full Rewrite):

---

He will continue working on this in his graduate studies.Signature: 

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Sarkar Barbaq Quarmal, PhD

Title: Associate Professor

E-mail: sarkar.barbaq@ulab.edu.bd

Phone: 01816951062

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I wish to express my profound gratitude and sincere thanks to my supervisor, Dr. Sarkar Barbaq Quarmal, Associate Professor, Department of Media Studies and Journalism, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. His scholarly guidance, constant encouragement, and insightful feedback were instrumental in shaping this research (partial). I am truly honored to have worked under his supervision; his expertise in communication research helped me navigate the complexities of this sensitive topic with academic rigor.

I am also thankful to the faculty members of the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, especially Abantee Harun, Adjunct Assistant Professor; Md. Ali Siddiquee, Assistant Professor; and Md. Aminul Islam, Senior Lecturer, for their intellectual support and for providing a stimulating environment throughout my academic journey.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my family for their unconditional support and for always respecting my academic pursuits. Their presence in my life provided the stability needed to enter this journey.

Finally, I am grateful to my friends Naim Ahmed and Arfan Ullah Rahat for the countless discussions, critical feedback, and emotional support that kept me motivated throughout this process. My final gratitude goes to Joyosmita Sultana, who first inspired me to enter the world of research and academia.

## **SELF-REFLECTION**

I entered ULAB as a young man. In many ways, I still consider myself a young child who has simply aged through the last four years of my undergraduate journey. Although the Department usually offers us a professional internship, I chose to enter the field of research instead. I am thankful to Dr. Sarkar Barbaq Quarmal for having faith in me and for guiding me to select the Pathways Internship. It proved to be an excellent suggestion, and I am satisfied with the outcome of my decision. Developing the first two chapters of this research proposal has been a significant intellectual exercise. Choosing to study sexual sextortion in the context of Bangladesh required me to look beyond the surface of a digital crime and examine the deep-rooted socio-cultural factors that make this issue so devastating for victims.

## SUMMARY

Research is a systematic way of finding answers to questions we do not yet fully understand. It is not merely about reviewing existing literature; it is a process of collecting evidence, analyzing it, and discovering new truths. In my case, research is a journey to uncover the hidden voices of individuals who are suffering in silence due to digital crimes.

As smartphone and social media usage in Bangladesh continue to rise, the risk of digital harassment has reached an all-time high. In our culture, topics related to "shame" (Lajja) and "honor" are rarely discussed openly. This culture of silence makes victims more vulnerable, as the fear of social judgment often prevents them from seeking help. By explicitly addressing sextortion, I am focusing on the "human side" of the crisis—the profound emotional pain and the intense social pressure that victims endure.

The general objective of this study is to explore the psychosocial consequences victims face following a sextortion incident and the strategies they employ to cope with them. Do victims resist? If they do not, what are the factors that drive their silence? In my study, Goffman's Stigma Theory will be used to explore how victims manage their "spoiled identity," while William Ryan's Blaming the Victim will be used to understand the external social mechanisms that hinder their ability to resist or seek justice.

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

This study aims to explore the consequences of sextortion and the coping strategies that the victims use to deal with such incidents.

The International Association of Women Judges [IAWJ] describes sextortion as “a form of sexual exploitation or corruption that occurs when individuals in positions of power demand sexual favors in return for something within their control (Sundström & Wängnerud, 2024). With a broader perspective, the IAWJ defines it broadly as the abuse of power to obtain a sexual benefit or advantage (EuropeNow, 2020). While foundational, this definition is often applied in institutional contexts. According to contemporary scholars, sextortion is identified as the phenomenon of threatening to share nude, sexual, or intimate images to persuade the victim into fulfilling certain demands, such as paying a ransom, providing additional intimate photos, or engaging in unwanted sexual acts (Henry & Umbach, 2024; Patchin & Hinduja, 2018; Ray & Henry, 2025). The rapid expansion of internet access, social media use, and digital communication tools highly contributes to the prevalence of sextortion, the practice of sexting, and the fear of having intimate photos leaked. It is evident that social media sites are primary to both sexting and sharing intimate images (Begum, 2024; Lawal et al., 2020; Mondal et al., 2022; Ray & Henry, 2025; Tzani et al., 2024; Van Ouytsel et al., 2016; Wolak & Finkelhor, 2016). A recent study reports that 94% of all sextortion threats are made using digital tools like social media or direct messages (Thorn, 2025).

The fundamental feature of sextortion is *quid pro quo*: someone demands sexual favors by abusing their power, which violates the principles of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women (United Nations Association of the National Capital Area, 2020). Sextortion has emerged as a growing digital crime worldwide, and it manifests itself in both institutional and digital contexts. Even the presence of gangs who actively facilitate sextortion worldwide using meticulous tactics has been reported (Vaughan, 2024). Vulnerability to sextortion is a universal problem that affects people regardless of gender (Henry & Umbach, 2024; Patchin & Hinduja, 2018; Tzani et al., 2024). However, the consequences become harsher for women, especially due to the honor and shame culture, fragile masculinity, hostile sexism, and so forth. It

is to be noted that, for men, the demand is usually financial, while for women, it is more often and almost always sexual. According to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), financial sextortion is rapidly escalating. Reports received by the NCMEC more than doubled in one year, going from about 10,700 cases in 2022 to over 26,700 cases in 2023 (Vaughan, 2024). On the other hand, sexual sextortion most often remains unreported, as it becomes tougher for women to report such cases due to the patriarchal social structure (Batoool et al., 2024; Howard, 2019; Ray & Henry, 2025; Wang, 2025). The consequences are more or less universal, but the burden seems to depend upon cultural and social beliefs, norms, and structures. Intense psychological and emotional damage is often common in all sextortion cases (Aborisade, 2022; Fletcher et al., 2024; Nilsson et al., 2019; Trendell, 2019; Walsh & Tener, 2022; Wolak et al., 2018). Self-harm and suicidal tendencies are also reported (Nilsson et al., 2019; Walsh & Tener, 2022; Wolak et al., 2018). The fact that the perpetrator is most often a known individual, especially intimate partners, rather than strangers, determines the intense psychological harm and makes a profound impact on the survivor's further interpersonal relationship (Alsoubai et al., 2022; Henry & Umbach, 2024; Ray & Henry, 2025). This violation of trust leads the victim to experience betrayal trauma and paranoia, as well as causing a major negative impact on their future interpersonal relationships. Furthermore, the most common coping strategies include avoidance or hiding behavior, withdrawal from society, deleting messages, blocking the perpetrator, and maintaining absolute secrecy (Wang, 2025; Wolak et al., 2018).

While much of the foundational literature originates from Western contexts, research on sextortion in non-Western countries is still developing. In countries like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, even digitally modified images or romantic images are used for sextortion (Batoool et al., 2024; Merkle et al., 2022, 2023; Mondal et al., 2022). Although secondary victimization, institutional re-victimization, and social and institutional failure are universal, in non-Western contexts, they are even more severe due to socio-cultural misunderstanding regarding these kinds of sexual violence (Aborisade, 2022; Batoool et al., 2024; Lawal et al., 2020; Mondal et al., 2022; Sheikh, 2019). Traditional patriarchal norms, beliefs, and attitudes are crucial to understand this severity (Merkle et al., 2022, 2023; Sarkar & Rajan, 2023; Sheikh & Rogers, 2024). In Bangladesh, the effects of both Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA) and are often long-term and make a major impact on victims' reputation, self-esteem, interpersonal relationships, and daily life (Akter, 2018; Begum, 2024; Merkle et al., 2022, 2023; Sheikh & Rogers, 2024; Sheikh, 2019; Sheikh et al., 2023).

Crucially, there is a lack of research explicitly addressing sextortion in Bangladesh. Also, worldwide, research on victim responses is developing, and there is a significant gap in the literature regarding specific coping strategies. In non-Western countries, there is a lack of a victim-centric study explicitly addressing sextortion. This research aims to fill these gaps by exploring the psychosocial consequences of sextortion and the victim's coping strategies in a non-Western socio-cultural context. Such an investigation is essential to inform prevention programs, strengthen victim-centered services, and contribute to broader efforts to combat digital sexual exploitation.

## 1.2 Research Objectives

The general objective of this study is to explore the psycho-social consequences the victims face following the sextortion incident, and the ways they try to deal with them. To be specific, the study aims to:

- Explore the psycho-social consequences of sextortion, focusing on its effects on the victim's emotional well-being and the resulting impact on interpersonal relationships and communication patterns.
- Identify the victim's Coping Strategies to manage the consequences of sextortion.
- Investigate the victim's experience and interaction with social and legal support networks

## 1.3 Research Questions

- What are the consequences of sextortion? How does it affect the victim's emotional well-being, interpersonal relationships, and communication patterns?
- How do victims of sextortion cope with and manage the resulting psycho-social consequences?
- What are the victim's experiences and interactions with social and legal support networks following an experience of sextortion?

## 1.4 Significance of the Study

### [1] Academic Value

*i) Finding Out How Victims Cope:* Right now, only two studies have examined victims' coping strategies, and both focused on Western countries. By systematically exploring and identifying the specific coping strategies employed by survivors, especially in a non-Western socio-cultural

context, this research aims to provide a victim-centric framework. This will enhance the literature on victim responses and coping strategies.

***ii) Explaining the Profound Impact:*** We attempt to explain how sextortion, especially the betrayal of trust, leads to serious problems like betrayal trauma and paranoia. This helps us understand the lasting damage to their ability to trust people in the future, and how this critically affects the survivor's future interpersonal relationships

## **[2] Contextual Value**

***i) Establishing the Foundational Data for Bangladesh:*** While sextortion, in Bangladesh, has often been included in studies dealing with gender-based violence, only two studies separately examined sextortion, which, by the way, focused on the non-cyber form of sextortion. We, on the other hand, will explore the digital form of sextortion, where power is exercised through technology. So, our research will be the first to provide the nature, consequences, and prevalence of this issue in Bangladesh.

***ii) Understanding Cultural Barriers:*** We focus on showing why the consequences are worse here than in Western countries. Additionally, whereas in Western countries, seeking legal and social help is said to improve the situation, our research will show how resisting and seeking social or legal help might make the situation even worse due to the social norms and belief.

## **3. Practical Value**

***i) Improving Support Services:*** By knowing exactly what coping methods victims use and what harm they experience, we can help people who run support centers and counseling services make them much more effective and sensitive to the victims' needs.

***ii) Strengthening Formal and Informal Response:*** The investigation into the victim's interactions with social and legal support networks will identify institutional and social failures and points of re-victimization. This evidence may help policymakers to fix policies and procedures to better protect victims.

***iii) Guiding Prevention Programs:*** The details about the crime and its impact will help schools and NGOs create prevention programs.

## CHAPTER II

### STUDY FRAMEWORKS AND LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Literature Review

##### *2.1.1 Sextortion: Nature and Context.*

The IAWJ differentiates sextortion from other forms of sexual violence on four specific bases: there has to be a person in a position of power, that position of power must be used in exchange for personal benefits, the benefit must be sexual in characteristics, and, lastly, there must be "passive consent", meaning the extortion must be dependent on that position of power, rather than physical force (Hendry, 2021). Essentially, what exactly separates sextortion from other sexual abuses is that it includes both a sexual and a corruption component (EuropeNow, 2020; Hendry, 2021; International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), 2012). For an act to be considered sextortion, it must involve someone in a position of power who misuses their power to demand sexual favors (International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), 2012). In an age of technology, sextortion can be best defined as the phenomenon where one person threatens to share intimate images unless given certain kinds of benefits, such as sexual or financial (Henry & Umbach, 2024; Patchin & Hinduja, 2018; Ray & Henry, 2025). Sextortion manifests itself in several ways: sometimes as abuse by a partner, sometimes as threats by a former partner, and often includes stolen images, as well as consensual images (Ray & Henry, 2025). Previously, in 2017, Powell & Hendry (2017) described sextortion as a form of Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence (TFSV), and even today, this clarification holds a profound grounding, as research consistently shows that sexting and intimate image exchanges primarily occur via social media platforms, smartphone apps, and dating apps (Begum, 2024; Lawal et al., 2020; Mondal et al., 2022; Ray & Henry, 2025; Tzani et al., 2024; Van Ouytsel et al., 2016; Wolak & Finkelhor, 2016). Over and above all, Thorn (2025) reports that 81% of sextortion threats occur online. Furthermore, Henry et al. (2020) described sextortion as a form of Image-Based Sexual Abuse [IBSA].

Vulnerability to sextortion is a universal problem that affects people regardless of gender. Age is a key factor in sextortion, as studies show that younger people are more involved as both victims and perpetrators (Henry & Umbach, 2024; Tzani et al., 2024; Wolak & Finkelhor, 2016). Alarming, the study conducted on 1200 young people aged between 13 to 20 by Thorn (2025) finds that one in five teens faces sextortion. Interestingly, Patchin & Hinduja (2018) reported that

young people who perpetrate sextortion were often people who had experienced sextortion in the past. While sextortion is often perceived as a crime exclusively targeting women, recent research indicates that men are more likely to both report being victimized and perpetrating the crime (Eaton et al., 2023; Henry & Umbach, 2024; Patchin & Hinduja, 2018), with LGBTQ+ respondents showing an even higher likelihood for both victimization and perpetration (Henry & Umbach, 2024). The vulnerability of non-heterosexual individuals to sextortion, which was addressed by Patchin & Hinduja (2018), is further reinforced by recent findings showing that male participants are significantly more likely to be victims of financially motivated sextortion (Cross et al., 2023; Nilsson et al., 2019; Notté, 2024). Moreover, Vaughan (2024) reports the prevalence of criminal gangs, often based overseas, that usually use fake profiles of girls to get intimate images of boys to commit financial sextortion. However, it must be acknowledged that reporting becomes significantly tougher for women, who are consequently less likely to seek help due to overwhelming shame, fear, and deeply negative perceptions of formal and informal platforms (Batoool et al., 2024; Howard, 2019; Ray & Henry, 2025; Wang, 2025; Wolak & Finkelhor, 2016). Moreover, Hagglund and Khan (2023) highlight the need for further observation of the problem, stressing that women are more susceptible to corruption than men because they are seen as weak in society. Henry & Umbach (2024) also recognize sexual minoritization as a significant risk factor for sextortion victimization, showing that 26.6% of LGBTQ+ individuals experienced threats, compared to just 12.8% of non-LGBTQ+ individuals. Furthermore, Snegha R (2025) associates sextortion with technological femicide. Lastly, as stated by Paula Boland, sextortion is often a "silent form of corruption" (United Nations Association of the National Capital Area, 2020); hence, being a 'blind spot', it continues to prevail unreported (Hagglund & Khan, 2023; Sarthak Rathod et al., 2022; Wolak & Finkelhor, 2016).

While much of the foundational literature originates from Western contexts, the problems and consequences of the crime are often much worse or amplified in non-Western contexts. For instance, in Pakistan, even romantic or suggestive images are weaponized for sextortion (Batoool et al., 2024). Mondal et al. (2022) report the presence of secretly hacking a victim's device, obtaining content from a third party, or creating completely fake videos using morphing technology to commit sextortion in India. These tactics are prevalent in Bangladesh and primarily manifest in two critical ways: either publishing or sharing the intimate content directly on social media or using the content for sextortion (Begum, 2024; Merkle et al., 2022, 2023). Researches

indicate that most cases of IBSA in Bangladesh include boyfriends filming intimate scenes and then blackmailing to obtain consent for unwanted sexual acts (Akter, 2018; Begum, 2024). Begum (2024) identified perverseness as another reason behind IBSA. Merkle et al. (2022) reported that 15% of women faced sexual violence for access to WASH facilities, and sextortion alone accounted for almost one-third (29.4%) of those cases. Furthermore, in Bangladesh, the most vulnerable to experience sextortion are said to be women living in poverty, in water-insecure households, and in rural areas (Merkle et al., 2023). Previously, findings from Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) identified Indonesia as having the highest number of sextortion cases in Asia (SYAUKET & WIJANARKO, 2022). Lastly, and importantly, sextortion is said to be more common in countries that are generally more corrupt, but the perception that sextortion is common decreases as general corruption gets worse (Aja-Eke et al., 2025).

### *2.1.2 Connecting Psychosocial Reality.*

While the previous section established the complex nature and context of sextortion, the true significance of the phenomenon is revealed through its profound and devastating consequences, which fundamentally affect the victim's interior and exterior life. The consequences are vital, including stress, trauma, anxiety, paranoia, and depression, as well as low self-esteem, victim-blaming, and self-blame, usually accompanied by ongoing fear that their intimate images will be exposed (Aborisade, 2022; Fletcher et al., 2024; Nilsson et al., 2019; Trendell, 2019; Walsh & Tener, 2022; Wolak et al., 2018), and significantly led the victims to self-harm and even suicide (Nilsson et al., 2019; Walsh & Tener, 2022; Wolak et al., 2018). According to Thorn (2025), one in seven victims harm themselves. The devastating consequence of sextortion on the victim's interpersonal relationships is critically determined by the fact that the perpetrator is more often a known individual rather than a stranger (Alsoubai et al., 2022; Henry & Umbach, 2024; Ray & Henry, 2025). Consequently, this betrayal leads to severe trust issues and paranoia toward all potential interpersonal relationships (Aborisade, 2022; Fletcher et al., 2024; Ray & Henry, 2025). Along with emotional harm, victims reported experiencing stalking, harassment, repeated contact online or via phone, and a considerable number also had fake online profiles created about them (Patchin & Hinduja, 2018). Despite the documented severity of these psychological consequences, Howard (2019) presented a nuanced finding: the study did not find statistically significant effects on emotional distress or self-esteem. However, participants consistently reported subjective

experiences of fear, shame, and distress, as well as reluctance to seek help, primarily due to stigma, self-blame, and fear of judgment. This intense reluctance to report the incident and fear of social judgment is dominant and often more severe in non-Western countries (Aborisade, 2022; Batool et al., 2024; Begum, 2024; Merkle et al., 2022, 2023; Mondal et al., 2022; Sheikh & Rogers, 2024; Sheikh, 2019; Sheikh et al., 2023).

The role of cultural factors in shaping perceptions of sextortion is significant. Studies report that victim-blaming in terms of sexual abuse is strongly influenced by cultural norms and gendered beliefs, such as hostile sexism, honor codes, and fragile masculinity (Gutierrez & Leaper, 2024; Łyś et al., 2021; Öztemür & Toplu-Demirtaş, 2024). A recent study compared Italian (culture of honor) and British (culture of dignity) participants in how they perceived a woman victim of sextortion, revealing that Italian participants judged a victim more harshly than British participants (Alemi et al., 2025). People often perceive sextortion victims as consenting, because the situation appears to them as a mutual exchange (Alemi et al., 2025; Dolev-Cohen et al., 2023; Gohil & Fido, 2021). Gohli & Fido (2021) reported that although many youth had a general awareness of image-based sexual abuse, the concept of sextortion was less well understood. Dolev-Cohen et al (2023) reported that in school, counselors often struggled in understanding and identifying sextortion cases and believed the harm to be minor. This lack of understanding of the issue is also stated by Mondal et al. (2022). Moreover, cases of both secondary victimization and institutional re-victimization have been reported by Aborisade (2022) and Lawal et al (2020). Previously, in Bangladesh, Sheikh (2019) reported the vast presence of socio-cultural misunderstanding regarding TFSV. Women's vulnerability to TFSV in Bangladesh has been associated with inherent gender inequality by Tasnima et al. (2023). Lastly, worldwide, sextortion is often overlooked or ignored by authorities, making it easier for offenders to keep committing these crimes (France, 2022).

Research on victim responses to sextortion is still developing, and there remains a significant gap in the literature regarding specific coping strategies. Despite this limitation, drawn from a study of 175 respondents, Wang (2025) reports that some victims follow the perpetrator's demands, while others choose to resist. The most common responses are characterized by hiding and avoidance behaviors, including deleting messages, blocking the perpetrator, and maintaining absolute secrecy; they frequently adjust their coping strategies as the threat continues (Wang, 2025).

According to Thorn (2025), seven out of ten people deal with the problem online, by either blocking the source (44%) or using reporting tools (24%), whereas 47% of respondents seek help offline; and older victims are less likely to delete the apps, or reveal the perpetrator, or seek help (Thorn, 2025). Adolescents were found to have no faith in elders, teachers, police, or other authorities in terms of assistance (Patchin & Hinduja, 2018). Wolak et al. (2018) also reported that half of the respondents did not disclose the case when they were minors. The situation is more personally and emotionally difficult for women, as Wolak & Finkelhor (2016) reported that 24% of respondents visited a medical professional, and 12% had to change their home. Also, one in five were willing to seek help; respondents were more likely to seek help when the image was disclosed (Wolak & Finkelhor, 2016). Wang (2025) highlights the fact that most victims seek advice or mental support from anonymous communities online rather than authorities. However, the decision to rely on anonymous digital advice over relational support is deeply rooted in the socio-cultural differences between Western and non-Western societies, as a large-scale comparative study suggests people in non-Western countries rely more on their friends and family for digital advice; they also perceive these same friends and family as being more likely to attack or betray them (Herbert et al., 2025). There is a lack of studies on victim responses in non-Western countries. This has been pointed out that in low and middle-income countries, the most common strategies to cope with TFSA include keeping quiet, ignoring the issue, and detachment from social media, and sometimes seeking help offline (Sheikh & Rogers, 2024). However, highlighting the need for examining sextortion as an explicit crime, Merkle et al. (2023) mark sextortion as an unstudied phenomenon in Bangladesh.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

While Goffman explains the internalized feeling of being "spoiled," Ryan explains the external social mechanism that causes that feeling. Together, they provide a comprehensive understanding of why sexual sextortion in a patriarchal society like Bangladesh leads to specific psychosocial trauma and why victims are forced into silent coping strategies.

### ***2.2.1 Erving Goffman's Stigma Theory***

Goffman says that society likes to "label" or categorize people. A stigma is a negative label. It is like a "stain" on one's reputation. It changes how people see you: instead of seeing you as a normal, "whole" person, they see you as "damaged" or "spoiled." In the context of sexual sextortion in

Bangladesh, the "stigma" is the potential exposure of intimate images. This theory explains my Mediating Variable (Socio-Cultural Context) by showing how "Honor and Shame" (Lajja) create a spoiled identity. It also explains my Dependent Variable (Coping Strategies), specifically why victims choose secrecy. According to Goffman, when a person has a secret that could get them labeled (like being a victim of sextortion), they start practicing Information Management. For Erving Goffman, social life is about information management. Individuals use "impression management" to control how others see them, acting on a "front stage" to maintain a positive public image. They hide sensitive or stigmatized information in a "backstage" area to avoid social judgment. This strategy allows people to protect their reputation and prevent their identity from being "spoiled" by society (Goffman, 2022).

### ***2.2.2 William Ryan's Blaming the Victim***

Ryan argues that social problems are often redefined in a way that shifts the responsibility away from the perpetrator or the system and onto the victim. He argues that social institutions and systems often analyze a social problem by focusing on the deficiencies of the victim rather than focusing on the deficiencies of the system itself. This theory explains the Independent Variable (Sexual Sextortion) within the Bangladesh context. It highlights why the threat of sextortion is so powerful: the perpetrator knows that if the images are leaked, the public will likely blame the victim for "sending the photo" rather than blaming the criminal for the extortion. This explains the Psychosocial Consequences (DV), such as extreme paranoia and fear of social exclusion (Coles, 1972).

## 2.3 Conceptual Framework.

The conceptual framework of this study illustrates the relationship between sexual sextortion and its impact on victims. Drawing on the existing literature, sexual sextortion is positioned as the independent variable. The dependent variables primarily consist of psychological and interpersonal consequences experienced by victims. However, these consequences are not universal, as they are significantly shaped by the socio-cultural context of Bangladesh, particularly patriarchal norms and beliefs, honor and shame culture, and victim-blaming.

Within this framework, there are a few mediating factors, such as patriarchal norms, honor and shame culture, and victim-blaming attitudes, as they play a crucial role in determining both the nature and severity of psychosocial consequences. These mediators also influence the specific coping strategies adopted by victims in response to sexual sextortion. Consequently, coping strategies function not only as outcomes of victimization but also as dependent variables within the framework.

By employing this conceptual framework, the study examines how broader social pressures and cultural norms transform a digital crime into a prolonged and deeply personal struggle for victims.

## 2.4 Operational Definitions

### 1. Sextortion

- **Definition:** The abuse of power to obtain a sexual benefit or advantage (EuropeNow, 2020). Additionally, it is identified as the phenomenon of threatening to share nude, sexual, or intimate images to persuade the victim into fulfilling certain demands, such as paying a ransom, providing additional intimate photos, or engaging in unwanted sexual acts (Henry & Umbach, 2024; Patchin & Hinduja, 2018; Ray & Henry, 2025).
- **Operational Definition:** The experience of being threatened with the non-consensual disclosure of intimate or sexual images/videos by a perpetrator, primarily a known individual or intimate partner, to coerce the victim into providing sexual favors or additional sexual content.

## 2. Honor and Shame

- **Definition:** Honor and shame refer to culturally embedded values that link an individual's sexual behavior to family reputation and moral standing, where perceived sexual transgression leads to social disgrace and stigmatization (Alemi et al., 2025)
- **Operational Definition:** Honor and shame (lajja) are identified through participants' expressions of fear of family dishonor, concern about community judgment, anxiety regarding reputational damage, and reluctance to disclose sextortion incidents due to social stigma.

## 3. Patriarchal Norms

- **Definition:** Patriarchal norms are social beliefs and practices that reinforce male dominance and impose stricter moral and sexual expectations on women, often holding them responsible for sexual behavior and victimization (Sheikh & Rogers, 2024).
- **Operational Definition:** In this study, patriarchal norms refer to gender-based moral judgements, expectations of female sexual purity, and acceptance of male authority.

## 4. Victim Blaming:

- **Definition:** Victim blaming refers to social and institutional responses that shift responsibility for sexual violence from the perpetrator to the victim, often framing the victim's behavior as the cause of the harm (Coles, 1972).
- **Operational Definition:** In this study, victim-blaming is defined as being blamed for sending intimate images.

## 5. Psychological Consequences:

- **Definition:** Psychological consequences of sextortion include emotional distress, anxiety, fear, shame, depression, paranoia, trauma symptoms, and suicidal ideation (Fletcher et al., 2024; Nilsson et al., 2019; Walsh & Tener, 2022).

- **Operational Definition:** In this study, psychological consequences are participants' self-reported experiences of persistent fear or anxiety, feelings of shame and humiliation, emotional distress and depressive symptoms, and self-harm or suicidal thoughts.

## 6. Interpersonal Consequences:

- **Definition:** Interpersonal consequences refer to the negative impact of sextortion on victims' social relationships, trust, communication patterns, and ability to form or maintain intimate connections (Ray & Henry, 2025).
- **Operational Definition:** In this study, interpersonal consequences are defined as social withdrawal, changes in communication with family or peers, loss of trust in others, and avoidance of intimate relationships.

## 7. Coping Strategies:

- **Definition:** Coping strategies are the cognitive and behavioral efforts individuals use to manage stress resulting from traumatic or stigmatizing experiences, including avoidance, secrecy, and disengagement (Wang, 2025).
- **Operational Definition:** In this study, coping strategies are defined as participants' actions aimed at preventing or stopping the leakage of their intimate images.

## References

- Aborisade, R. A. (2022). Image-Based Sexual Abuse in a Culturally Conservative Nigerian Society: Female Victims' Narratives of Psychosocial Costs. *Sexuality Research & Social Policy*, 19(1), 220–232. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13178-021-00536-3>
- Aja-Eke, D., Gillanders, R., Ouedraogo, I., & Maiga, W. H. E. (2025). Sextortion and corruption. *Applied Economics Letters*, 32(6), 830–834. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504851.2023.2289894>
- Akter, F. (2018). *Cyber violence against women: The case of Bangladesh*. GenderIT.Org. <https://genderit.org/articles/cyber-violence-against-women-case-bangladesh>
- Alemi, M. S., Uskul, A. K., Giovannelli, I., Pagliaro, S., Spaccatini, F., & Pacilli, M. G. (2025). The Role of Honor in Perceptions of Sextortion Victims: Evidence from Italy and the U.K. *Sexuality & Culture*, 29(5), 2260–2278. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-025-10366-9>
- Alsoubai, A., Song, J., Razi, A., Naher, N., De Choudhury, M., & Wisniewski, P. J. (2022). From “Friends with Benefits” to “Sextortion:” A Nuanced Investigation of Adolescents’ Online Sexual Risk Experiences. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 6(CSCW2), 1–32. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3555136>
- Batool, A., Naseem, M., & Toyama, K. (2024). Expanding Concepts of Non-Consensual Image-Disclosure Abuse: A Study of NCIDA in Pakistan. *Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.364287>
- Begum, K. (2024). *Nature and Extent of Image Based Sexual Abuse Against Women: Bangladesh Perspective*.

- Coles, R. (1972). Blaming the Victim. By William Ryan. *American Journal of Sociology*, 78(2), 448–450. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2776512>
- Cross, C., Holt, K., & O'Malley, R. L. (2023). "If U Don't Pay they will Share the Pics": Exploring Sextortion in the Context of Romance Fraud. *Victims & Offenders*, 18(7), 1194–1215. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2022.2075064>
- Dolev-Cohen, M., Nezer, I., & Zumb, A. A. (2023). A Qualitative Examination of School Counselors' Experiences of Sextortion Cases of Female Students in Israel. *Sexual Abuse*, 35(8), 903–926. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10790632221145925>
- Eaton, A. A., Ramjee, D., & Saunders, J. F. (2023). The Relationship between Sextortion during COVID-19 and Pre-pandemic Intimate Partner Violence: A Large Study of Victimization among Diverse U.S Men and Women. *Victims & Offenders*, 18(2), 338–355. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15564886.2021.2022057>
- EuropeNow. (2020). Noticing and Combating Sextortion: An Interview with Nancy Hendry. *EuropeNow*. <https://www.europenowjournal.org/2020/03/09/noticing-and-combating-sex-tortion-an-interview-with-nancy-hendry/>
- Fletcher, R., Tzani, C., & Ioannou, M. (2024). Consequences of online sextortion on victims: Findings from open-access data and an online survey. *Assessment and Development Matters*, 16(2), 36–43. <https://doi.org/10.53841/bpsadm.2024.16.2.36>
- France, G. (2022). *Criminalising sextortion: Challenges and alternatives*. Transparency International Anti-Corruption Helpdesk. [https://knowledgehub.transparencycdn.org/kproducts/Criminalising-sex-tortion\\_final\\_10.06.2022.pdf](https://knowledgehub.transparencycdn.org/kproducts/Criminalising-sex-tortion_final_10.06.2022.pdf)

- Goffman, E. (2022). *Stigma: Notes on the management of spoiled identity*. Penguin Books.
- Gohil, A., & Fido, D. (2021). Examining Perceptions of Sextortion in the General Population. *Journal of Concurrent Disorders*, 4(3), 36. [https://cdspress.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Gohil\\_Fido\\_Perceptions-of-Sextortion\\_FINAL\\_OCT12.pdf](https://cdspress.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Gohil_Fido_Perceptions-of-Sextortion_FINAL_OCT12.pdf)
- Gutierrez, B. C., & Leaper, C. (2024). Linking Ambivalent Sexism to Violence-Against-Women Attitudes and Behaviors: A Three-Level Meta-analytic Review. *Sexuality & Culture*, 28(2), 851–882. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-023-10127-6>
- Hagglund, K., & Khan, F. (2023). THE GENDERED IMPACT OF CORRUPTION: WOMEN AS VICTIMS OF SEXTORTION IN SOUTH AFRICA. *Journal of Anti-Corruption Law*, 7, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.14426/jacl.v7i1.1446>
- Hendry, N. H. (2021). Sextortion. In K. Miller & K. Wendt (Eds.), *The Fourth Industrial Revolution and Its Impact on Ethics: Solving the Challenges of the Agenda 2030* (pp. 315–320). Springer International Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-57020-0>
- Henry, N., McGlynn, C., Flynn, A., Johnson, K., Powell, A., & Scott, A. J. (2020). *Image-based Sexual Abuse: A Study on the Causes and Consequences of Non-consensual Nude or Sexual Imagery* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351135153>
- Henry, N., & Umbach, R. (2024). Sextortion: Prevalence and correlates in 10 countries. *Computers in Human Behavior*.
- Herbert, F., Munyendo, C. W., Becker, S., Hielscher, J., & Zou, Y. (2025). Digital Security Perceptions and Practices Around the World: A WEIRD versus Non-WEIRD Comparison. *34th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 25)*, 1455–1474.

Howard, T. (2019). *Sextortion: Psychological Effects Experienced and Seeking Help and Reporting Among Emerging Adults* [Ph.D. Dissertation, Walden University].

<https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=7863&context=dissertations>

International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ). (2012). *Stopping the Abuse of Power through Sexual Exploitation: Naming, Shaming, and Ending Sextortion* [Toolkit].

International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ).

[https://www.unodc.org/res/ji/import/guide/naming\\_shaming\\_ending\\_sexortion/naming\\_shaming\\_ending\\_sexortion.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/res/ji/import/guide/naming_shaming_ending_sexortion/naming_shaming_ending_sexortion.pdf)

Lawal, B., Muhammad, M., & Mohamed, S. (2020). *A CRITICAL REVIEW OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE AND SEXTORTION AMONG GHANAIAAN WOMEN ON SOCIAL MEDIA*. 5.

Łyś, A. E., Studzińska, A., & Bargiel-Matusiewicz, K. (2021). Beliefs on Sexual Violence in the Context of System Justification Theory: The Role of Hostile Sexism and Beliefs in Biological Origins of Gender Differences. *Social Justice Research*, 34(3), 235–254.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11211-021-00373-0>

Merkle, O., Allakulov, U., Gonzalez, D., Sánchez, A. H., Rabbi, S. E., & Hasan, Z. (2023). When vulnerabilities are exploited—The role of sextortion in the WASH sector in Bangladesh. *Frontiers in Water*, 5, 1048594. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frwa.2023.1048594>

Merkle, O., Allakulov, U., & Gonzalez Tejero, D. (2022). *Sextortion in access to WASH services in selected regions of Bangladesh* (No. 022; UNU-MERIT Working Papers). UNU-MERIT. <https://www.merit.unu.edu/publications/wppdf/2022/wp2022-022.pdf>

- Mondal, H., Sahoo, M. R., & Mondal, S. (2022). Characteristics of Cyber Sextortion in India: Content Analysis of Online Newspapers Published in 2019–2021. *Journal of Psychosexual Health*, 4(3), 171–177. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26318318221096755>
- Nilsson, M. G., Tzani-Pepelasis, C., Ioannou, D. M., & Lester, D. (2019). *UNDERSTANDING THE LINK BETWEEN SEXTORTION AND SUICIDE*. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3402357>
- Notté, R. J. (2024). Exploring the impact of sextortion on adult males: A narrative approach. *Technology in Society*, 78, 102617. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techsoc.2024.102617>
- Öztemür, G., & Toplu-Demirtaş, E. (2024). Are the Paths to Victim-Blaming Paved with Hostile Sexism, Honor System Justification, and Fragile Masculinity? Evidence from Men in Turkey. *Sexuality & Culture*, 28(1), 168–186. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12119-023-10109-8>
- Patchin, J. W., & Hinduja, S. (2018). Sextortion Among Adolescents: Results From a National Survey of U.S. Youth. *Sexual Abuse*, 32(1), 30–54. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1079063218800469>
- Powell, A., & Henry, N. (2017). *Sexual Violence in a Digital Age*. Palgrave Macmillan UK. <https://doi.org/10.1057/978-1-137-58047-4>
- Ray, A., & Henry, N. (2025). Sextortion: A Scoping Review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 26(1), 138–155. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380241277271>
- Sarkar, S., & Rajan, B. (2023). Materiality and Discursivity of Cyber Violence Against Women in India. *Journal of Creative Communications*, 18(1), 109–123. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0973258621992273>

Sarthak Rathod, Akhlesh Kumar, & Dr. S. K. Jain. (2022). Cyber Psychological Case Studies of Sextortion for Identifying the Accused in the Offences Committed on Social Media.

*International Journal of Scientific Research in Computer Science, Engineering and Information Technology*, 42–52. <https://doi.org/10.32628/CSEIT22815>

Sheikh, M. M. R., & Rogers, M. M. (2024). Technology-Facilitated Sexual Violence and Abuse in Low and Middle-Income Countries: A Scoping Review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 25(2), 1614–1629. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380231191189>

Sheikh, Md. M. R. (2019). Technology mediated violence against women in Bangladesh:

Evidence from contemporary literature. *Proceedings of International Conference on Gender Equality*, 198.

[https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/61030345/Proceedings\\_of\\_International\\_Conference\\_on\\_Gender\\_Equality20191026-80485-1g75st6-libre.pdf?1572152846=&response-content-](https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/61030345/Proceedings_of_International_Conference_on_Gender_Equality20191026-80485-1g75st6-libre.pdf?1572152846=&response-content-disposition=inline%3B+filename%3DWorkplace_Gender_Discrimination_Faced_by.pdf&Expires=1765392351&Signature=V0rrYJgGX7ca3riOPRavAjftmQvieFgGdZhMadufJ1eHlpEOw5kJiEfrAZ5jcwLK0L241qJu~1W43SKr6XUrqaityTRUsep6K7B1y7xu4gsBGlkZ7TF8wVDxS29kp8dd5iqIfVkVNSyo4HbDwRWD-rWBrMEHzVBd0qCstV4h7nwrgrReBinclDQ0OXNeGCohhYIShnISODCn4G~uOtQrsgZx0ld-qDGSq0OACXxbk8AnrQWSZWwb2nvKXliz~OetSfYxVNmXuflgx5xle5TJEY3qDH65Bi~zrJMR)

[disposition=inline%3B+filename%3DWorkplace\\_Gender\\_Discrimination\\_Faced\\_by.pdf&Expires=1765392351&Signature=V0rrYJgGX7ca3riOPRavAjftmQvieFgGdZhMadufJ1eHlpEOw5kJiEfrAZ5jcwLK0L241qJu~1W43SKr6XUrqaityTRUsep6K7B1y7xu4gsBGlkZ7TF8wVDxS29kp8dd5iqIfVkVNSyo4HbDwRWD-](https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/61030345/Proceedings_of_International_Conference_on_Gender_Equality20191026-80485-1g75st6-libre.pdf?1572152846=&response-content-disposition=inline%3B+filename%3DWorkplace_Gender_Discrimination_Faced_by.pdf&Expires=1765392351&Signature=V0rrYJgGX7ca3riOPRavAjftmQvieFgGdZhMadufJ1eHlpEOw5kJiEfrAZ5jcwLK0L241qJu~1W43SKr6XUrqaityTRUsep6K7B1y7xu4gsBGlkZ7TF8wVDxS29kp8dd5iqIfVkVNSyo4HbDwRWD-rWBrMEHzVBd0qCstV4h7nwrgrReBinclDQ0OXNeGCohhYIShnISODCn4G~uOtQrsgZx0ld-qDGSq0OACXxbk8AnrQWSZWwb2nvKXliz~OetSfYxVNmXuflgx5xle5TJEY3qDH65Bi~zrJMR)

[rWBrMEHzVBd0qCstV4h7nwrgrReBinclDQ0OXNeGCohhYIShnISODCn4G~uOtQrsgZx0ld-qDGSq0OACXxbk8AnrQWSZWwb2nvKXliz~OetSfYxVNmXuflgx5xle5TJEY3qDH65Bi~zrJMR](https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/61030345/Proceedings_of_International_Conference_on_Gender_Equality20191026-80485-1g75st6-libre.pdf?1572152846=&response-content-disposition=inline%3B+filename%3DWorkplace_Gender_Discrimination_Faced_by.pdf&Expires=1765392351&Signature=V0rrYJgGX7ca3riOPRavAjftmQvieFgGdZhMadufJ1eHlpEOw5kJiEfrAZ5jcwLK0L241qJu~1W43SKr6XUrqaityTRUsep6K7B1y7xu4gsBGlkZ7TF8wVDxS29kp8dd5iqIfVkVNSyo4HbDwRWD-rWBrMEHzVBd0qCstV4h7nwrgrReBinclDQ0OXNeGCohhYIShnISODCn4G~uOtQrsgZx0ld-qDGSq0OACXxbk8AnrQWSZWwb2nvKXliz~OetSfYxVNmXuflgx5xle5TJEY3qDH65Bi~zrJMR)  
[TFx2pJJ~YVgyihs936PHF6qUjxGyUHOBDH07LMO1l3N30A\\_\\_&Key-Pair-Id=APKAJLOHF5GGSLRBV4ZA#page=205](https://d1wqtxts1xzle7.cloudfront.net/61030345/Proceedings_of_International_Conference_on_Gender_Equality20191026-80485-1g75st6-libre.pdf?1572152846=&response-content-disposition=inline%3B+filename%3DWorkplace_Gender_Discrimination_Faced_by.pdf&Expires=1765392351&Signature=V0rrYJgGX7ca3riOPRavAjftmQvieFgGdZhMadufJ1eHlpEOw5kJiEfrAZ5jcwLK0L241qJu~1W43SKr6XUrqaityTRUsep6K7B1y7xu4gsBGlkZ7TF8wVDxS29kp8dd5iqIfVkVNSyo4HbDwRWD-rWBrMEHzVBd0qCstV4h7nwrgrReBinclDQ0OXNeGCohhYIShnISODCn4G~uOtQrsgZx0ld-qDGSq0OACXxbk8AnrQWSZWwb2nvKXliz~OetSfYxVNmXuflgx5xle5TJEY3qDH65Bi~zrJMR)

- Sheikh, Md. M. R., Hossan, Md. R., & Menih, H. (2023). Cyberbullying victimization and perpetration among university students in Bangladesh: Prevalence, impact and help-seeking practices. *Journal of School Violence*, 22(2), 198–214.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15388220.2023.2168681>
- Snegha R. (2025). An Analysis of Crimes Related to Femicide and Technology with Reference to India and Other Countries. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAW REVIEW*, 4(2).
- Sundström, A., & Wängnerud, L. (2024). Sexual forms of corruption and sextortion: How to expand research in a sensitive area. In T. D. Barnes & E. Beaulieu (Eds.), *Handbook on Gender and Corruption in Democracies* (pp. 78–92). Edward Elgar Publishing.  
<https://doi.org/10.4337/9781803923246.00014>
- SYAUKET, A., & WIJANARKO, D. S. (2022). SEX + CORRUPTION = SEXORTION. *International Journal of Environmental, Sustainability, and Social Sciences*, 3(2), 307–312.
- Tasnima, T., Md Syed, M. A., Padzil, R., & Abu Bakar Ah, S. H. (2023). Women, Technology and Gender-Based Violence in Bangladesh. *Jurnal Komunikasi: Malaysian Journal of Communication*, 39(4), 166–182. <https://doi.org/10.17576/JKMJC-2023-3904-09>
- Thorn. (2025). *Sexual Extortion & Young People: Navigating Threats in Digital Environments*.  
[https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn\\_SexualExtortionandYoungPeople\\_June2025.pdf](https://info.thorn.org/hubfs/Research/Thorn_SexualExtortionandYoungPeople_June2025.pdf)
- Trendell, S. G. (2019). “Send Nudes?”: Risk Factors for the Perpetration of Inappropriate Intimate Image Based Behaviours and Impacts on Victim Mental Health [Master’s Thesis]. Saint Mary’s University.

- Tzani, C., Ioannou, M., Fletcher, R., & Vaughan Williams, T. J. (2024). Psychological factors leading to sextortion: The role of personality, emotional factors and sexual needs in victimisation. *Computers in Human Behavior*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chb.2024.108323>
- United Nations Association of the National Capital Area. (2020, July 9). *SEXTORTION: A Crucial Humanitarian-Corruption Challenge*. United Nations Association of the National Capital Area. <https://www.unanca.org/our-impact/news/sextortion-a-crucial-humanitarian-corruption-challenge>
- Van Ouytsel, J., Van Gool, E., Walrave, M., Ponnet, K., & Peeters, E. (2016). Sexting: Adolescents' perceptions of the applications used for, motives for, and consequences of sexting. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13676261.2016.1241865>
- Vaughan, E. H. (2024, May 15). NCMEC Releases New Sextortion Data. *NCMEC Blog*.  
<https://www.missingkids.org/blog/2024/ncmec-releases-new-sextortion-data>
- Walsh, W. A., & Tener, D. (2022). “If you don’t send me five other pictures I am going to post the photo online”: A qualitative analysis of experiences of survivors of sextortion. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 31(4), 447–465. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2022.2067093>
- Wang, F. (2025). Breaking the silence: Examining process of cyber sextortion and victims' coping strategies. *International Review of Victimology*, 31(1), 91–116.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/02697580241234331>
- Wolak, J., & Finkelhor, D. (2016). *Sextortion: Findings from a Survey of 1,631 Victims* [Research Report]. Crimes against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire.  
[https://www.thorn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Sextortion\\_Report.pdf](https://www.thorn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Sextortion_Report.pdf)

Wolak, J., Finkelhor, D., Walsh, W., & Treitman, L. (2018). Sextortion of Minors: Characteristics and Dynamics. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 62*(1), 72–79.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jadohealth.2017.08.014>