



Lolicon

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Introduction

Lolicon is the attraction to prepubescent girls, particularly in anime and manga.

Research Question

What is Lolicon's effect on Japanese society?

Methods

Utilizing academic research, we will showcase how this problem is influencing and normalizing the attraction to underage girls. We will discuss the impact, local and globally, on the acceptance and societal effect of Lolicon, as well as the steps taken to combat its influence in Japan.

Result 1

Arguments to ban:

- ❖ Leads to sexual abuse of children
- ❖ May be harmful to children who read it
- ❖ Is explicit and is technically outlawed by Japanese law

Arguments to not ban:

- ❖ Censorship violates freedom of speech
 - Might lead to further restrictions of speech
- ❖ Less harmful proxy for abuse of children
- ❖ Explicit manga/anime can educate children about sexual matters

Result 2

- ❖ Lolicon is very much a part of the mainstream media in Japan...Why?
 - Mostly due to Japan's fascination with youth as a standard of beauty.
 - Connection to lack of sex ed
- ❖ Japanese Law when it comes to child pornography:
 - Japan outlawed the production and distribution of images of sexual abuse of children in 1999
 - Japan's police agency reported 1,644 offences in 2013 - more than in any year since the 1999 law came into force
 - In June 2014, Japan banned possession of real images of child sexual abuse - people were given one year to comply



Conclusions

Since there is little to no work being done to prevent Lolicon's presence in Japanese society, it is very easy for minors to acquire child pornography in cartoon form, even in convenience stores.

Simultaneously, popularizing Lolicon is a message to girls that they are objects for consumer consumption, and that their youth (and innocence) is especially desirable in a sexual setting.

References

- Just Looking: Tantalization, Lolicon, and Virtual Girls by Shari Savage
- Manga, Virtual Child Pornography, and Censorship in Japan by Chris Mathews
- Japan Times
- BBC

Acknowledgments

Matthias Vogel,
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