

Digital Literacy and The Perceptions of Online Grooming

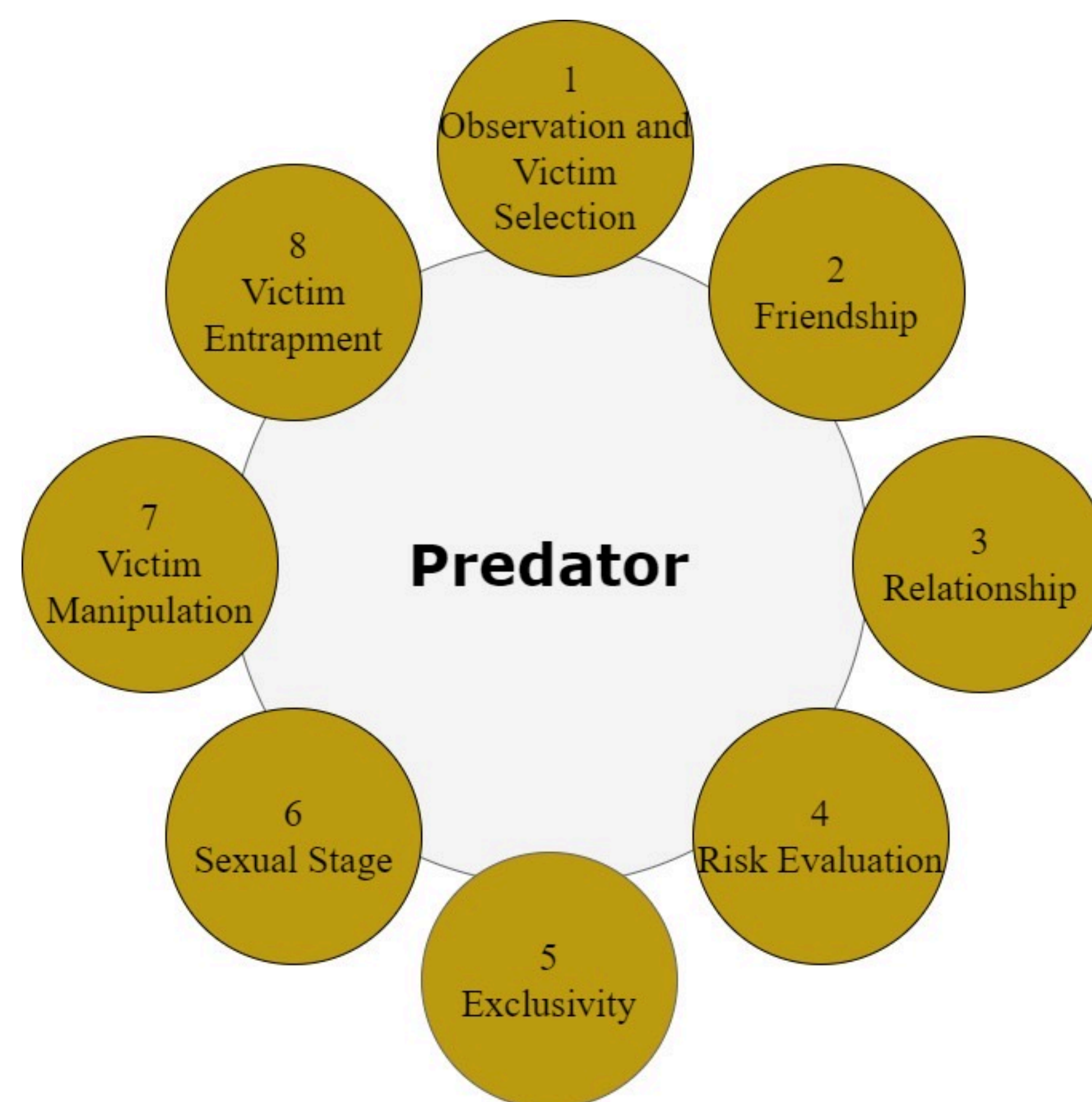
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MOTIVATION

- Cyberspace can be a double-edged sword which is home to a vast amount of information and users.
- There has been a large increase in the number of people using the internet over the years.
- Despite the positive sides, the internet poses a lot of risks which affects minors with adverse consequences.
- The vulnerabilities of children online are on a steep rise due to their inability to self-regulate their internet use.

ONLINE GROOMING PROCESS



ABSTRACT

Recent developments in computer technology have increased the number of internet stalkers, child pornographers, traffickers and sexual predators. In a world where digital literacy is on the rise and people strive to keep up with the latest technology, there is a need to review the impact of digital literacy on the perceptions of grooming of minors perpetrated through CMSG, FSG and LSG. Therefore, this study aims to investigate how digital literacy relates to the perception of online grooming.

Research Questions

- What role can the perception of adults on online grooming play in the reduction of risks?
- What role can the digital literacy of adults play in the reduction of vulnerability of minors?
- What is association between the familiarity of adults with the internet and their perception of online grooming
- Is there a relationship between digital literacy of adults and the perception of CMSG, FSG and LSG?

HYPOTHESES

- ❖ H_1 - negative correlation between digital literacy and Computer Mediated Sexual Grooming (CMSG).
- ❖ H_2 - negative correlation between digital literacy and Familial Sexual Grooming (FSG).
- ❖ H_3 - no correlation between digital literacy and Localized Sexual Grooming (LSG).

IMPACT

- Enhanced awareness is achieved when adults in the society can perceive the various grooming types.
- Better response to online grooming is accomplished by law enforcement and adults in general.
- Better protection of minors and improved prevention through tailored solutions.
- Tougher sanctions and penalties to deter other offenders.

METHODOLOGY

- Sample size of 200 from participants within the US.
- Predictor variables – digital literacy and internet.
- Dependent variables – CMSG, LSG and FSG.
- Control variables – Demographics
- Descriptive analysis will be used to evaluate a summary of results
- Bivariate analysis will be used to analyze the perception of participants on the prevalence of the dependent variables
- Ordinal logistic regression will be used predict the chances of the dependent variables occurring
- from the predictor variables

GROOMING CONVERSATIONS

Table 1: Online grooming conversation extracted from Perverted Justice

STAGE	PREDATOR	VICTIM
Deceptive Trust Development	where are you from?	North Carolina
Grooming	Do you have any sexual experience?	I guess I kind of do. I got punished for stuff a lot.
Seek Physical Approach	Oh? Your mom will be home soon, will she not?	Yes

FUTURE WORK

Future work may be focused on evaluating the relationship between digital literacy, the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic and its impact on mental health.