Effect of Mass Media on Crimes of Children and Adolescents

Zahra Gharibi*

Islamic Azad University, E-campus branch, Tehran, Iran
*E-mail: ardestani4646@yahoo.com

Abstract

Many of the researchers, thinkers and reformers identify the current age with different names such as Technique Age, Communication Age, Global Village and Remote Leadership. Indeed, remote leadership is not only true for satellites and spacecrafts, but it is also true for remote leadership by mass media for human. Findings of this survey show that if Television's programs are guided towards human's excellence, it can be one of the effective factors in preventing crimes in children and adolescents. But programs which do not pay attention to such purposes may issue violent crime in imitating actors, and make coexistence with adults and real world difficult and the adolescents show social repugnance against the instilled ideas. Most of the films create sweet dreams for children and sound superior than real. When films are not consistent with religious beliefs, local traditions, culture's level, ethics and specially age category, they will cause crime and stroke victims. Regarding the superior importance of the wide role that media play in today's life this article aims to investigate the role of media in crime of children and adolescents.

Keywords: Press, Television, Satellite, News, Radio, Crime, Children, Adolescent

Introduction

Mass media is the center of attention and has been studied widely due to its effects on culture and people's norm specially adolescents and is considered as a crime factor.

Many researchers believe that unhealthy message can be the origin of immortality and obliquity. This factor stimulates the inconsistent tendencies and by representing unreal images, violent scenes and sex actions and unsuitable expression of committing crime, especially in countries which technology is developing rapidly and such technologies are widely accessible, mass media is one of the important crime factors. Indeed other researchers reject this idea and believe that development of technology and mass media not only does not cause crime but also can have several positive effects on people's lives and relieves emotions and tendencies: by watching relaxing films and scenes or reading romantic and dramatic stories, people are satisfied and do not commit crime. However, both theories are censurable and should be reviewed, because both are extremists, in fact it should be accepted that media are like other technologies and have both positive and negative effects. And people are affected by its negative and positive effects based on their characteristic, their education, family environment, because movies have abundant positive and negative effects and anyone gets affected based on his/ her characteristic. Regarding the mass media's role in people's life especially children and adolescents, they have significant effects on people's behavior which can be effective, instructive or destructive. In fact, press, cinema and television are some aspects of technology development which play an important role in the structure of people's thought, formation of mass ethics and people's characteristic especially children and adolescents, because their characteristic is not formed completely and they cannot yet distinguish between proper and improper. They spend most hours of the day in front of TV or in cinemas, thus quality of the presented issues in TV and cinema has significant impacts on their characteristic. Thus, parents and teachers should guide

children in choosing proper programs. Because if they choose improper programs, not only they will be departed in terms of ethics but also it will learn them criminal techniques. Indeed, there are few researches which can prove the impact of TV and press on adolescents' crime in the country. In this article, impact of image media like TV, cinema, video, satellite and press on children's crime is investigated.

Crime

Crime and aberration in children and adolescent has always been the center of attention. Along with the development of Industrial Revolution and the vast scope of requirements, deprivation caused by not providing the demands and life requirements have extended degeneracy, rebellion, crime, wandering, theft and etc extensively in children and adolescents. Today, our children face such problems and its deadly effect is obvious in our society. Children and adolescents are our society's wealth and their mental health guarantees the future society's health. Thus, enough attention must be paid to their problems. Studies in western countries show that experiencing crimes is very common among adolescents. Some have claimed that 90% adolescents have committed actions that if police had intervened they would have been arrested. These studies show that prevalence of crime in adolescents is more than what people expect (Babakhanipoor, 1997, as cited in AdineAbghari). Experience has shown that a few adolescents who commit crime are arrested. And a few of the ones arrested are internmented. And, specific ones are sent to prison and a fraction of the ones who have been judged are condemned. Therefore, it is very difficult to know how many criminals are in the society, and who should be called a criminal and which adolescent should be studied to obtain information about the reason he has committed crime (Smith Man, 1995). Psychologists think that criminals are a group of distinct and incongruent youths and the paths which end to crime are different. Youths who commit crime cannot be easily located in a specific behavioral pattern or specific characteristics. Crime is the result of mutual interaction of factors available in people's life. Therefore, crime is a behavior caused by different factors (Yang, 1998). Some psychologists and sociologists think that the increase in crimes is the result of development in industry, increase in the number of developed countries, foundation of factories, growth of cities and population aggregation. They believe that today, human has lost the convenience and comfort that was in the past and have faced a kind of mental anguish and inmost worry. Thus, with a small excuse, they lose wisdom, logic, patience and tolerance and commit crime. Some experts think that the increase in crimes is the result of religious beliefs and argue that by losing beliefs among a part of people in urban areas, conscience which is the inmost police of each person, becomes powerless and cannot do its basic duties including watching goodness and preventing evils. This negligence results in committing religious forbidden activities and legal forbidden activities. Finally, another group of current experts think that the ever increasing of anti-social activities, especially in adolescents is caused by the development of mass media especially satellite and video. This group believes that: since imitating sense is strong in youngsters, by watching different films (mostly sex and crime), they imitate the heros of such films, which are typically anti-social and are forbidden by law. This group compared urban and rural areas for proving their theorem: in urban areas, crime is prevalent because of the excessive growth of cinema, TV and satellite but in rural areas this phenomenon has not developed much yet.

Effective Factors in Crime

In the first step, criminals are categorized in terms of age, education, crime, family problems and etc., then effective factors in children's crime and how to prevent them is investigated.

There is no single reason for committing crime; there are always several reasons which make people to commit a crime. The most important reasons include social and economic factors and the relationship between parents and children.

Social Factors: Sociologists have considered the direct and indirect factors of environment and population, living conditions, air pollution and etc. Role of social conditions and the conflicts that occur in its framework cannot be neglected. For this reason, crime cannot only be investigated based on social factors and the previous independent findings are not consistent. Investigations show that when there is not social stability in a society, and the society is in difficult situations like war, revolution or riot or there are some abnormal conditions and public antipathy is prevalent, crime increases. On the contrary, as the society is directed towards stability, crime decreases.

Economy class: Poverty is one of the most important factors of perversion including theft, sexual perversion especially in children and adolescents. Poverty is for sure one of the factors causing difficulties which defeats human. Most of the deprivation which cause social uncertainty are caused by poverty and cannot be neglected. Unemployment, lack of food and clothing, illiteracy and backwardness, ignorance and superstition, poor health and various mental and physical diseases and even wars at world level originate from material needs and fear from thickets, malnutrition and poor health which are related to poverty are the main factors of committing crime.

Relationship between Parents and Children: It is probable that the most important factor in crime is the incorrect training method or disrupted family relations. Almost all researches have shown that parents who are not kind with their children will have criminal children more probably.

In those families which adopt strict disciplinary methods or unbound and deceptive methods, reasoning, parents are neglecting and ridicule instead of being intimate and passionate, crime increases. It has been shown that criminal children had poor relationship with their fathers and evaluate their fathers as unacceptable models. Most of the criminal children do not have father or their father has been absent for a long time. However crime is correlated with separation and divorce in families. It has been proved that having problems in schools and parents who suffer from emotional problems have a strong relationship with crime. Probability of having criminal children in those parents with criminal record is higher. Investigations have shown that parents' punishment does not decrease crime and even it makes it worse and in some cases it ends in retaliation. Rosseau says that I was punished a lot such that my sensitivity to punishment reduced and finally it became a reward for my thefts. I told myself when I am punished like a thief I can act like a thief, and I realized that being punished and thieving are related.

Friends' Role: Intense identification with peers and being dependent on them, regardless of the social-economical class is an important factor in committing crime. Adolescents who are rejected by their parents, are attracted towards their peers to achieve support. Such adolescents are weak in school and look forward to people who are like them; thus they might commit anti-social actions and applause each other for doing such actions. Most of the criminals introduce their friends as the ones who have taught them crimes when they are asked from whom they have learned crime and this necessitates the parents and the teachers to pay more attention to this issue.

Psychological Factors: Psychologists have enumerated several reasons for crime, sometimes they know crime as the result of failure and severe conflict that the growing child suffer from, psychologists emphasize on the relationship between mother and children. Absence of mother is an important reason which leads to committing crime. Crime is accompanied by various psychological characteristics including below average intelligence, high level of internal anger and aggressive behavior, intolerance, need for excitement, lack of common sense with others and low level of ethical reasoning. It is proved that criminals have lower self-confidence compared to non-criminals. Some scientists have mentioned weakness, anemia and malnutrition as the factors of crime (Schambiati, 1388).

Other Factors of Crime

1- Stubborn and disjointed families is one of the main and primary factors of crime; because most discomforts of adolescents is the result of ordering and strict parents and unkindly in childhood and lack of security and welfare, parents' anger, weak morals, excessive support and ambitious dreams of parents for their children sometimes result in insanity.

Adolescents who have been deprived of freedom and basic equipment of life in childhood and could not continue their education, want to achieve their lost rights and take revenge from family and society; that is they deliberately do the actions which are forbidden, therefore they commit rebellion and aggression against others' rights through crime, to mitigate their discomforts; but they are unaware that they are adding a discomfort to their discomforts. Family conflicts including parents' arguments or children's arguments, parents' addiction to drugs and alcohol, frequent marriages and half-brothers and half-sisters, envy and discrimination among children, divorce etc are all among the factors which lead to adolescents crime. Such families are organizations without face where no passion and kindness exist, thus the child feels unsecure and this anxiety and worry guides him towards crime. Such adolescents are high unsatisfied with their parents and since they cannot fight with their parents, emerge their rebellion out of the family and toward their parents' peers who are the parents of society, a child who has always faced unkindness and aggression in the family, not only feels anger towards them but also will transfer this anger to the out of family which can be called crime. Moreover, a family in which one of the parents is present will probably cause discomforts and rebellion of the adolescents of that family. Because of the mother is absent, the child feels the lack of mother and unpleasant emotions emerge in him/her which is one of the most important factors of crime.

2- School after family has an important role in children's social life, because students spend most of their live and active time at school. Thus, the school authorities can control the students' behavior and find their problems. On the other hand, situation, behavior and programs of school have an important effect on the students being interested in school or distracted from school. In addition, school plays an important role in intellectual and social growth of children and makes them ready for entering the adults' world with special instructions.

3- Another factor which increases crime in children is migrating from villages to cities and problems regarded to living in thickets. Pleasant conditions of urban centers and centralization of amenities in cities attracts the villagers and they migrate to cities every year and some citizens of poor countries migrate to advances countries. Lack of proper housing and not being matched with principles which govern the cities, causes these people to live in the thickets and start a criminal life. Increase in crimes like theft and exchanging and using drugs in such people has become a great problem. It is clear that children's share is more than others. Migrants make the children to do suspended jobs and open the way for others to abuse them and make them to do beggary, theft or exchanging drugs.

Some experts believe that internal and international migrations have become one of the most important reasons for increasing the crime rate among the first generation of migrants.

4- Development of mass media has some disadvantages despite all its advantages. With the development of image media like TV, journals, cinema, computer, internet and … such equipment have become a school for teaching crime to children. Showing combat and war movies, increase in thieving scenes and obscene scenes make negative impacts on children and increases their tendency for the mentioned criminal actions (Sotudeh, 1994, p. 287). It is clear that becoming familiar with such issues increases the crimes' rate among children. For instance, in evaluating the programs of ABC, NBC and CBS from United States' TV, it was specified that in each week people watch 92 scenes in which an attack occurs with firearm, 113 rape scenes, 9 smothering scenes, 168 fist fight scenes and 179 cases of law violation. On the other hand, each child watches a total of 13000 murder and rape scenes until he/she reaches 14. In addition, since most of the people who watch TV are the

poor who do not have any other entertainment, thus effect of TV in motivating them for crime is greater.

Criminal Children

Definition of Crime

Crime is one of the words which has several definitions. Criminologists believe that each action which is dangerous for most people of a society is a crime. Psychologists believe that crime is a social- mental- biological phenomenon. According to the report published by the United Nations, crime factors include: poverty, unpleasant family condition, heredity and … and the recent definition is based on these factors.

Crime means sin and mistake and criminal means sinful, villain rebellious, guilty is the one who commits sin.

Criminal children, in Iran's law is the one who does an action which is legally or religiously forbidden, such people are known as criminals in Islam and if they do not repent they have to be punished, whether a specific punishment has been determined for his crime or not. In the second case, he/ she will be punished the way the judge rules (Salahi Javid, 2008, p.17). Most criminal children are the ones who were born in unorganized families, a family which is unkind or they have not felt the stable family life from childhood for some reasons or at least they have received pity instead of kindness and their emotional development has stopped. Such people who are deprived of kindness have to show-off themselves and attract others' attention through actions which is disadvantageous for society. If criminals are girls, they prostitute and they are easily deceived by swinger men and if they are boys, they easily stand against law and society and commit crime, theft, lying and become vengeful against others (Nourbaha, 2008, p.173).

Characteristics of Criminal adolescents

A high percentage of criminal show their tendency for adventuresome actions. They are usually restless and uneasy who look for adventure, if they have money then they go to park several times a week, they stay up late, they thieve at nights, start smoking cigarette very soon and they usually escape family and stay out all night long. However, criminals are emotionally less stable compared to others, but they have high level of energy, they are aggressive, adventurous and stubborn. Psychologists believe that criminals interact with their emotional tensions by action and behavior instead of thinking about them. They less tend to obey the olds and authorities. They have an intense defensive state. They are less dependent on others. Lawbreaker criminals are mostly self-centered and their characteristics are unpleasant in terms of consistency with the society. However they less feel worried, helpless and fearful.

Preventing Children against Crime

Several remedial methods have been proposed for reducing and treating crime. The general belief is that developing social programs like: before marriage certificate, establishing special clinics for pregnant women and creating maternity and clinics for newborns, helping with family costs and increasing education level, individual and group psychotherapy, family therapy, behavior correction, training, entertainment, reading book and several other items are the most suitable methods for preventing children from committing crime.

In the following we mention some approaches for preventing the areas of crime emergence through creating a healthy and calm environment in the family:

1- Establishing friendship and understanding between parents: friendship and understanding between father and mother results in calmness of the children. Since an infant opens his eyes to the world needs kindness and care. Thus if in some cases there are some problems in the relationships between parents, it is necessary not to show these problems in the presence of children or do not

vituperate in the absence of the other one. In the family relations it should be tried to strengthen the relationships by forgiveness and reconciliation and do not create conflict and tension because in such case the first one who will be hit is their innocent child.

2- Playing with Children and Adolescents: parent should provide their children with the possibility of entertainment, rest and vacation. Taking part in sport competitions, going to park and group trips and going to gym can prevent crimes. Entertaining children and playing with them has always been interesting and attractive for children.

3- Avoiding competition for attracting children's kindness: if parents want their children to stay with them should be able to establish a friendly relationship with their children. In addition, a friendly relationship between parents and children, makes home a secure shelter for children. They can relax in such a home and feel secure. If the family environment is friendly for its member and the child can argue about his/her problem with parents, many of the aberrations would be prevented.

4- Not creating incompatibility in the family: incompatibility in family affects children and adolescents. If parents' arguments result in divorce and the child becomes deprived of one the parent's kindness, he/she will becomes depressed, and this will guide him towards crime.

5- Non-aggressiveness of parents against themselves or their children: parents' aggressiveness against each other or their children, dissatisfies the child from family and he/ she escapes home and this may direct him/her towards crime.

6- Developing self-confidence: losing self-confidence paralyze the human's intellect and he/she becomes depressed and dependent. Parents should not always emphasize on their child's weak points and try to correct him/her through reprehension, but they should pay more attention to his/her strong points and motivate him/her in those areas to develop his/her self-confidence. Focusing on strong points creates trust for parents and creates and emotional relationship with them.

7- Maintaining the child's personality: children and adolescents like to be respected, thus they show-off different characteristic. If they make a mistake, they try to hide it from others. Thus it is better:

First, to avoid any action that tarnishes the dignity of the children. Insolence, contempt, using invective misty words, insisting on failures to take him down are factors which destroy the child's characteristic. Second, to use indirect methods for correcting the child's drawbacks. Third, if it is necessary to directly mention a mistake, it is better not to mention it in public or if the child apologized himself/ herself, his/ her apology should be accepted.

8- Consulting with Friends: such consultation make them feel that they are counted in the family, thus they tell their parents whatever they have in their heart and this creates friendliness in the family. Secondly, if parents consult with children, they can gradually teach them how to think and make decision. Some people despite their high education are really unable to make decisions and face severe problems in their social and family life. Such people are those who have not been well brought up in the family.

9- Expressing love and affection to the children: children should be glutted with love and affection. The love that the child receives in family causes mental relief and this relief prevents them from ethical lapses. Indeed it should be mentioned that emphasizing on love does not mean to overspend, love should be such that children do not become very dependent and can stand on their own in the absence of parents. Secondly, children should not be very satisfied and demanding. Because when they enter society and their demands are not satisfied they become depresses.

Practical Offers

1) Creating the provision of formal and informal education and training in such families might help a lot in preventing crime in the children of these families. However it should not be forgotten that these actions cannot change the characteristic model of criminals. It is not reasonable to demand that

establishing a school in a poor area or creating educational programs in TV for families and children or financial help to a family can solve the problem of crime in a family.

2) Along with educational activities, basic changes should be made in views and motivations of a society.

3) One of the changes that can be very effective and efficient is to create operation groups in each step and area, in which children can take part actively in positive operations. This way, children who seek semantic and value, and has an infinite energy can employ all his/her efforts for better life conditions and helping others.

4) Accurate control and monitoring in schools through active role and close relationship of teachers with students.

5) More strict assistance of judicial staff with adults' crimes.

6) Educational and entertaining programs for preventing crime and its dangerous consequents through media especially TV.

7) Creating the background for moral development of children based on faith and moral measures of a society.

8) Creating cultural, art and sport centers for children

Effects of Media

Media have several impacts which can be categorized in terms of message transfer, geographic impact area, field of effect on the audience, ownership type where each of them are described in the following.

a) Message Transfer

Regarding the nature of activity, different types of media and the variety of factors are important in provisioning a news or presenting a news, in a general categorization based on message transfer, media can be divided to print media, written media, audio and video media.

This categorization helps us to define specific rules about general media and express the possible examples according to those rules.

Thus, all media with slight differences can be covered with a general rule. But the communication method of each media with audiences is different and this is one of the distinct aspects of this categorization. In other words, communication method of print and written media is printing and communication method of audio and video media is broadcasting, but the objective of both media is to transfer the message to the audience (Moradimodirian, 2012).

b) Geographic impact area

In terms of geographic impact area, media can be divided into local, national, international and global. Local media are media which their activity is limited compared to other media and pertain to some parts of the country's structure. Such media include local newspapers, local radio programs and state TV channels. Any way the main feature of this media is that its programs and contents are as effective as their dominated area.

National media extend their activity area to the whole country. Iran's morning newspapers or afternoon's newspapers are examples of such media.

International media, not only cover the whole country but also extend their activity level overseas.

Finally, the global media have the highest activity area and are considered as an attack for all geographical and political borders among which Internet is the most obvious one (Moradimoodirian, 2012).

c) Field of effect on the audience

Dividing media in terms of their effect on audience requires evaluating and analyzing results of each media in the society. It is clear that without having correct and accurate information and

statistical data, defining different levels of impact is impossible. But in general, media can be divided into three groups.

1- First level media: for instance, in United States, 4 main media including newspaper, journal, radio and TV are at the first level of impact on audience.

2- Intermediate level media: for completing the example, in United States, book and movie despite the previous decade are at the intermediate level. These two media were once the main forces of the US society, although they still have a high leverage, their impact is not as high as previous years.

3- Low level media: in the third level of impact are other media like billboards, posters and etc.

Dividing media in terms of their impact on audience and being predictable is to induce criminal thoughts on a group or a specific jargon and defining the degree of criminality of reflecting a topic in one of the aforementioned media and in general defining the conditions that a criminalist should discriminate the depth of its impact is of great importance (Zakerhosein, 2007).

d) Ownership type

Ownership of Media is directly linked to the way they are managed, in regards to which they can be categorized into two public media and private media and from another point of view they can be categorized into internal and external media which we do not explain them to be brief.

Effect of TV on Children's Crime
Power of TV

On one hand, TV is a media which affects all cognitive senses (intellect, imagination and illusion). Thus, one of the discriminating features of TV is its quality and attractiveness. This feature is an unavoidable feature of this media. It requires focus and attention of eyes and ears, it focuses the attention to a motion in a small space. This magical box is placed near the dining table or wherever else that is proper. TV used does not need to go out and buy tickets, he/ she can establish visual and audio communication with theatre scenes and news camera (Kashani, 1998, pp. 1,5). In addition, TV transfers dynamic images with audio and music. Thus, all necessary conditions for attraction are provided in this media and this makes TV the most powerful mass media and differentiates it from other media.

Therefore, through experiencing a symbolic method which distinct the different media, children get the possibility to get the necessary intellectual skills which makes them learn with higher impact. Learning through media depends on enough training of behaviors related to general skills and the skills required for specific use of media. On the other hand, TV is an equipment for information bombardment and these two reason make its impact deep and persistent (Haman, pp. 12, 22).

How Do Children Use TV?

Human at any age has a main and pivotal activity, around which they spend their time. This main activity becomes boring throughout time and human needs variety. This variety should be something other than the main activity; and it should be done in a time other than the main activity's time so that it does not disrupt the main activity (Berry Gunz and Bill Mac Aller, translated by NosratFatta, 2001, p.941).

TV can be a valuable tool for entertaining children and also if it is managed as a targeted management tool with correct planning, it can fill their spare time as a procreator tool with all hidden applications. Most surveys show that spending time is one of the most important reasons that children watch TV (Azari, 1998, p. 77).

Some experts have asked indirect questions from children and linked their answers with their behavior. They have concluded that the reasons why children watch TV can be categorized into three

groups. The first category which is several times bigger than the second category, is spending spare time. When children's goal from watching TV is this, more probably they want simple and adventurous entertainments. In this stage, least attention is paid to educational programs and the most relaxing program which increases optimism of audiences is the family programs (Berry Gunz and Bill Mac Aller, translated by NosratFatta, 2001, p.941).

Since spare time should respond most requirements of man specially children, this application would be helpful until it is not replaced with all other side activities of the child.

Effects of TV on Children's Social Behavior

Quality of the children's relationship with family and peers helps defining how much they should watch TV. But this help goes further, while because of failure in family relations or relationship with friends is aggressive, he is probably looking for the aggressive contents of TV and recalls those contents. If his social relations are not satisfying it is likely that he tends imagination as a result of TV imaginations. If he looks for aggressiveness to respond his social needs, he will probably recalls that aggressiveness in his real life and when he feels he needs that .

Aggressiveness: an aggressive TV program teaches the how to commit aggressive actions. Showing aggressive programs causes long-term and short-term problems in family relations and relations among friends. The more the children watch aggressive films; they will use more aggressiveness in solving their problems. Such children will act anti-socially in their adolescence. Since aggressive programs change their attitude towards social facts, therefore they consider the current world as a fearful place in which aggressive actions are natural and acceptable.

Notions of Race and Gender: Usually different races are less demonstrated in films and TV programs and when they are demonstrated, they are usually representatives of malefactors or victims of aggressiveness; indeed authorities will consider this problem in formulating the plans. In the past, women played less in films compared to men; but today women play modern roles and appear in non-industrial jobs. But in general, they are always the symbol of love, passion and even victims in family and romantic roles. For example, when girls watch such films, their view towards modern duties of women in today world changes.

Consumerism: All children are able to understand the difference of a TV program and an advertisement. They think that advertisement for buying a toy is a charity effort done by the adults for children. But at 11, children understand that the purpose of advertisements is to sell the products. Therefore, they really doubt the reality of the advertisements and the society becomes a question for them!

Prosocial Behavior: despite all the mentioned item, we should consider that many of the TV programs including activities like coordination, helping others and cooperation in social programs. When the contents of TV programs are such prosocial behaviors, social behavior of children increases. in general media programs are a combination of tendencies and prosocial and anti-social behaviors and children can hardly differentiate between them. They usually show tendency for aggressiveness and lose the social message of the film and their behaviors become negative.

Effects of TV on Children's Aggression

Watching TV starts from childhood and increases till 12 and in adolescent age decreases. One of the issues which can evaluate the global effect of TV is to see how do children in far-away areas which do not have access to TV differ from those children who have access to such these media (Kertin and William, 1986, Harisson and William, 1986). Before the emergence of TV, students of elementary school in Toutle village were tested in terms of reading ability and creativity.

This test was also performed on children of the same age in Canada who had TV, and it was concluded that the results obtained from the test performed on children of Toutle village was better.

But 2 to 4 years after the entrance of TV in this village, reading and creativity score of children was decreased and reached the score level obtained from urban children, in addition their aggressiveness during their games was also increased and significantly decreased their contribution in social activities. Although these findings look somewhat abnormal but other studies show that the most important effect of TV is that it forces children to replace activities like listening to TV, reading comic books or going to cinema by watching TV (Hutson et.al, 1992, Libert and Sperafkin, 1989). Children who watch TV do not necessarily spend less time playing with their peers or doing their homework. Furthermore, it seems that TV does not affect children's understanding in far-away areas. In fact, reviewing this subject indicates that small children gain a lot of information from TV especially its educational programs (Anderson and Clein,1988). Thus watching TV for about 10-15 hours a week does not rebate the children's intellect and does not hurt their social growth, however children who watch TV more than their peers have less good performance compared to other children. Totally, effects of watching TV is not that negative that experts utter, unless children watch TV more than the standard such that less time is spent on their growth activities like playing or doing their homework.

Several surveys have been performed in USA and UK about effect of TV on children, it can be concluded that TV increases children's worries about future and they feel more unsecure and soon reveals the complexities of family and social life because it faces the children with problems and values of adults (Sotudeh, 1994, p. 206). Today, many of the people who have a receiver are affected by TV democracy and since children are greatly interested in TV programs, they can hardly be convinced to go to sleep before TB programs are ended or do their homework on-time. In the recent decade with the development of Video and TV transmitters, producers have made different films and programs for people. In the past, if the film watchers chose their arbitrary film and then went to the cinema, today TV officials export films to homes without considering their good and bad effects and family members including man and woman, child and adult watch these programs without having the right to choose. How does the child use TV? Statistics show that one out of three children of age 3 watches TV, at age 5, 4 out of 5 children watch TV and at the first stage of elementary school, 9 out of 10 children watch TV. In first years of school, the average time that a child spends on watching TV is 2 hours a day. After these years, and in 6th and 7th stages, this increases to three to four hours a day and in high school years it significantly decreases. There are various individual differences among children in terms of watching TV. For example, smarter children are the advocates of TV till 11, after this age, they tend to leave TV and go towards greater intellectual challenges of print works. An ordinary child spends the same amount of time on watching TV as he spends on doing his homework. Children's tastes demonstrate their fast movement from children programs to western, adventurous and criminal programs and adults' programs. Children are significantly interested in TV. If children have to spend their time without media, they will feel its absence. If they are asked what changes they would like to be applied in TV, they are totally unable to answer and usually their answer is that they want to watch more programs than what they are currently watching. It should be mentioned that in smarter children, importance of TV decreases in ages 13 to 19. During these years print works and radio (which is the second channel for providing music while reading and studying) find a greater importance.

Effects of Aggressiveness in TV on Children's Behavior

At the beginning of 1945, complaints received from parents, teachers and child's growth experts, forced the Chairman of the Committee of the Teenagers' Crime in the Senate to question the necessity of aggressive scenes in TV programs, and it became clear that US TV is incredibly aggressive. More than 80% of overnight programs have at least one aggressive scene and it is estimated that children watch an average of 13000 murder scenes till 16 (Gerbner et. al 1986;

Singorieli, 1987). In fact, most aggressive TV programs are specifically designed for children, especially the cartoons which are broadcasted on weekends. Although most people believe showing aggressive scenes comically would not affect children's behavior, but oral and written researches demonstrate something different.

Robert Libert and JumeicySpirafkan (1998) found several discomforting examples that watching such scenes affects the children's behavior, for example: in Los Angeles, a servant seized a 7 year old child while pouring glass sprinters in the soup. The child was doing this as an experiment to see if its result would be what he had seen on TV. A large number of relevant researches clarify the same fact. Children who watch more aggressive scenes are more offensive compared to those who watch less such scenes. In fact there is a positive relation between watching aggressive scenes on TV and offensiveness among preschool, elementary, high school children in USA and elementary students in Australia, Canada, Finland and England. Studies show that there is a mutual relation between aggressive scenes on TV and offensiveness (Euroneh, 1982; Human et. al, 1984). The minimum result of such surveys might be that watching TV continuously might extend aggressiveness and anti-social behaviors. In fact, when Human looked for the children who had turned 30, found that their tendency for watching TV at 8 not only could predict their aggressiveness in adolescence but also we can expect severe aggressiveness from them. Not only children act based on these scenes but also they are affected by these scenes. For example, being accustomed to watching these aggressive scenes make the child to consider the world as an aggressive place, that is he believes in the inferior world and the solution to such thoughts is the tendency towards aggressive solutions. In fact, children of ages 7-9 who tend more to watch aggressive scenes, believe that such demonstrations are a luster of the real world. In a similar method, repeating aggressive scenes on TV makes children insensitive to aggressive scenes. This assumption was tested on children of 8-19 and a control group. Half of the children in this study watch an adventurous aggressive scene while other children watched an adventurous scene (Volleyball game).

After that all children were gathered in one place for a physiography test and recording the reaction. Then all children were asked to watch a film individually, while other children were in another room. After watching the film, the child was asked to join other children, however the child was told that the equipment might not work well and then scenes of fighting children were shown and the film was ended with a collision sound and the video was cut. The results were interesting, children who had previously watched aggressive scenes were less excited and those who had watched non-aggressive scenes had a reverse reaction. The children who had watched aggressive scenes believed that they live in an aggressive world and showed less reaction and did not ask for help. It seems that watching aggressive scenes teaches the audience to delay the offense and this might be the reason why children become offensive after watching aggressive scenes on TV.

Role of Cinema and Movies in Creating Crime Background in Children

The secret of Cinema's attraction can be stated as follows:

Tendency for being entertained, living in an imaginary world, indirect contribution in adventurous events, recognizing the attractive characteristics, forgetting the real world and escaping from discomforts, or in other words connecting with entertainments and pleasures that can be available outside the house (Farhat, 1975, p. 405).

Whenever a movie contains useful social and educational contents, children will be guided towards the excellent goals and will develop useful elements for serving the society. But whenever criminal films include murder, theft and killing, an adventurous and rapacious spirit will develop in children and make them anti-social and destructive elements.

Mentally, the children who are at their beginning years of life cannot establish the necessary link between the events of a film and the film itself, therefore they will fall into a mental schism and if these images are along with aggressiveness and killing, they induce the child's mind and might guide him towards such criminal activities (Casito, 1985, p.25).

Most magical images superfast the audience and attract him to the extraordinary abilities of the unreal characteristics and offer images which are not real in ordinary life. Producers of such programs create an effective fact from a big lie and the audiences who have a great enthusiasm for their unrealized wishes watch that accurately and find their unrealized wish, therefore they tend towards such factors and commit anti-social activities. Even in some cases, films are such that they do not exist in the real world, but can make negative impacts on the child's mind such that they finally become a competition for bombardment of the children's mind and do not create anything but fear, aggression and imagination in the children.

It should be said that today in some countries including Iran, children's crimes have increased and the presses reflect this bitter reality. Several examples have been reported of the children who have committed crime under the impact of movies.

For instance, a child in Tehran took his father's umbrella and came down from the roof to ground after seeing the beautiful landing of paratroopers.

Therefore it can be concluded that children see no difference between the films and the real world and try to implement what they see in film in real world and sometimes they create irreparable problems for themselves and the others.

So we should say that pornographic movies entertain the children with their attraction and this has a dangerous impact on children's morale and creates a kind of aggressiveness and indiscipline, lack of responsibility, rebellion and promiscuity which would be very dangerous for the future of a society. Therefore if the image lacks negative and destructive aspects, it would certainly be a useful phenomenon for society. While today filmmaking, in most countries has deviated from the right way and usually steps towards the reverse direction of social interests such that producers consider their own profit. Such movement for obtaining the market is followed by a wave of aggressive and horrifying films which traps the children in fantasies. These films which are produced to create fear and adventure will be followed by bad mental effects. Because there is no educational point for children's mental growth in such films, but such films are produced to induce fear and depression in children instead of hope and motion. If in the past, the audience chose a film arbitrarily and then left the house for the cinema to watch that film, but today the officials export films to homes without considering their good and bad effects and family members including man and woman, child and adult watch these programs without having the right to choose.

But cinema cannot be condemned absolutely. There are films which develop stability, bravery and daring in children by showing historical, scientific and literary masterpieces but on the contrary there are films which promote debauchery and extend rebellion and disobedience among children (Schambiati, 2009, p.242).

Therefore, according to the above explanations it can be concluded that movies have an effective role in creating the crime background in children and showing aggressive activities, murder, crime and killing and adventurous scenes are effective in increasing the perverted activities in children.

Role of Computer Games in Creating Crime Background in Children

One of the main worry about computer games which creates crime background in children is their aggressive feature. Being worried about the effect of these games, along with the increasing worries about the effect of existing aggressions in media, is regarded with the fact that doing them is

a mutual activity and it is possible that involves the person mentally. In this regard, effect of aggressive issues of these games in comparison with the effect of other entertaining mass media can be emphasized.

Some American psychologists are worried about the side effects of computer games with aggressive contents. Rogers is worried that computer games conveying aggressiveness, especially games about nuclear war might reduce the fear of war. Zimbardo believed that aggression is the common subject of all games and they can be planned such that they promote coordinating and constructive ideas.

Laftus says that some games with positive subject were introduced in the early 1980. Popular games like Super Mario which represented a character who helped others or rescued them with bravery. Other games like Fraker and DunkiKoonk are the games which have been made after that and had positive contents. In Fraker, player is a frog that wants to pass a crowded road, a piece of land and a river. It should pass a heavy traffic for achieving its goal, meet dangerous snakes, knock up with trees and avoid falling in the river. The story becomes more complicated by finding the Ms. Frog, the one who marries Mr.Frog, the main character of the game and should be protected against dangers. DankiKoonk is another form of King Koong in which the main character should rescue a young woman from a Big Gorilla, while all these games have a positive content but this fact should be accepted that many of the popular games are aggressive. They worry that most of the games are war games and people are killed in these games, for example, mortal combat is proposed in which a player drives a white car on the screen and tries to pass the small creatures which are on his way. In another game called Epic Shark, a big shark is following 4 scuba divers. The player controls the shark. His goal is to attack the scuba divers and kill them. Contents of such a game are such that each gumption is unable to justify them. Effects of such aggressions cannot be easily explained. But other evidences show that these games can have positive effects also. While the primary evidences show that children who play such games like space attackers, show more aggressive behaviors. But other evident show that these games can have positive effects also. The most disadvantageous aspect of computer games is that they are played by one person. It seems that two player games like boxing would have less effect, while one player games might excite more aggression.

One of the primary researches showed that the popularity of computer games does not depend on how aggressive these games are. It seems that the most important factor is the amount of activities and adventures of the game, not its aggression. He believed that the manufacturers can transform the aggression into another activity without affecting its popularity. In fact, other reasons proved that even children might get corrupted due to the aggressive contents of these games. Maloon analyzed the results of Dart which is designed to teach fractions to students of elementary school. This game, with its aggressive content, attracted boys, while it was not very popular among girl students (Gunter, 1997, p.25).

Any way after investigating the effect of aggression in creating the crime background by computer games on children, we should say that aggression, murder, clash etc in computer games excites children and becomes a field for their crime and in some cases that the adults do such games, they might also get affected and carry out them on a child which might cause the child to commit crime.

It should be mentioned that sexual differences also play an important role in this regard.

As boys get more affected, they might have different characteristic effects among them which no results have yet been obtained but it can be said that in families where aggressive children are brought up and there is no monitoring from the family are more affected by these games compared to the children who are monitored by the family. Any way children find motivations by doing such games

which directs them towards crime and show enthusiasm for committing different crimes where all of the above can create a background for crime in children.

Effects of TV News on Children's Crime

It's been a long time since we know that romantic contents of films and TV programs can affect our mental health. These impacts affect our spirit directly and our spirit affects different aspects of our thought and behavior. If a TV program demonstrates negative spiritual experiences (stress, discomfort, anger and hate), these experiences will affect your interpretation from life and your worry about daily life problems. TV news and how it misleads the society's view towards children's crime has attracted attentions in new reports called Children, crime and local TV news and has recently been published in U. D (Up Date). In this report, Danio Yanich asks why most people think that children's crime are increasing, while it is not so and why do people consider children and the ones who commit crimes, while they are usually defenseless victims. Why do people see children on the news as victims but remember reports like Columbine who is a criminal.

Children commit aggressive crimes less than adults and commit financial crimes. So why is it not the way it is understood?

Yanich says: people gain their awareness and information from seeing and believing the news, where production skills can show all crimes especially children's crimes worse than what they are in reality.

In 6 cases of 10 murder reports, two third of the reports are related to other crimes and half of them are reports about other aggressive crimes which children were involved, study showed that children are more victims than suspected

Other findings of this study show that:

• Reports of children's crimes take longer than adults' reports

• Neighbors who have been used and information sources in children's crime reports are two times the numbers that have been covered by adults' crimes.

• Most criminal reports- either children or adults- are reported when the court enters crimes

• Murder is a selective crime, a crime which is usually covered for both children and adults

• Non-aggressive crimes like financial crimes, drugs, administrative staff's crimes, traffic crimes and civil violations are considered for one fourth of children's covered crimes and 3 to 10 adult criminal reports.

• Males were a considerable number of suspects in both groups.

• Almost half of the news are related to children have not clarified the ethnicity of the victim, 6 to 10 cases of adults' crimes were so.

• In children's crimes, one third of the reports convey that the suspect and the victim were members of a family. In adults' crimes only 5% were family members.

• 14 percent of children's criminal reports showed that the suspect and the victims were familiar. This figure was only 8 percent for adults.

• In adults' crimes, the victims were mostly girls.

At the end, it is very important for the citizens to be cautious when they analyze the news.

Effects of Press on Children's Crimes

Among the mass media, presses are at the forefront of forming public's thought due to different reasons like inhere and availability at each moment and their low cost and variety audit all people and groups. Many have tried to describe the meaning and concept of public thought and have investigated its features and characteristics. Public thought is considered as an important and effective issue in all aspects of social life and its role has been emphasized several times.

Today, the press reflect the news of crimes and war. Managers of the events pages in newspapers and journals try to publish the most severe and aggressive crimes. They even judge the suspects or criminals before they are condemned. In many western press, and Iran's press which are imitating western press, crime events are at the attention center of the journalists. If we measure the space that crimes occupy in a newspaper in comparison with the advertisements versus the total subjects, it can be understood that most of the space is assigned to the above problem. And the contents of some newspapers is related to murder and killing. Publishing the news about crimes does not end to newspapers and journals, but they will be restated in friends and family reunions and will be interpreted from different aspects.

Managers of events' pages of newspapers and journals try to publish the most aggressive crimes. In 1940-1950, with an increase in children's crimes in USA some people warned about the children's generation. When parent, psychologists and sociologists said that they are worried, US senate assigned a committee to investigate the issue and a committee named Moral Committee was established to evaluate the bad education books and then measures its relation with crimes.

Usually, press are insensitive about the events and their impact on the reader. The most important issue for press managers is to increase their credits. On one hand free business and profitability has given freedom to the authors in providing reports and criminal stories but on the other hand, his social responsibility has increased because of the impact it creates in future.

Effect of Satellite on Children's Crimes

It should be said the process of remote communication and using satellite and other mass media for broadcasting waves in a wide level is a two sided sword which can have both positive and negative impacts. According to the statistics, in 1998, 35 percent of the children had access to satellite and spent 2-4 hours a day watching this TV. The maximum amount was 4.5 hours and the minimum amount was 1 hour.

The fact is that the satellite like other human equipment can serve the society or betray it because it capabilities are such that it can be exploited good and bad equally. A social pathologist says that: Despite satellite programs have positive and constructive educational contents, today most youths do not choose satellite for its scientific programs and the more tend to watch the programs which cannot find their similar in the country and in fact they use satellite for its pornograph programs which develops the background for their failure, Prophet Mohammad says that: what has happened to you that consider the good as bad and the bad as good. Attacking religion for fighting with superstitious is one of the applications of mass media especially satellite and therefore, forming norms is proportional to that concept. In this regard, showing pornograph images via satellite is one of the factors that promotes promiscuity.

The enemy who has always seem belief in god and promoting religious culture as the main obstacle of their goals, tries to pervert the children by creating abnormalities in the young generation.

Conclusion

There are less people who deny people learn from media. Many educational, commercial and political activities are based on this principle. Daily observations verify this fact. But the point that what do people learn from media cannot be easily defined and their evaluation is hard. The problem gets harder when media messages take different forms.

Choosing between media and their contents is usually carried out after school and usually states type and taste and mental readiness which is affected by the stories states in family, school and other social entities. Such characteristics usually differentiate among social, economic, religious and political groups.

Special attention to children's crimes is because that their crimes' nature is different from the adults'. Different scientist play a role in this field, but psychologists' role is more important.

Finally, while discussing a pre-defined cause like aggressive action, cause and effect are proposed. The problem is that which one precedent the other. Being subject to media aggressiveness with tendency to watch aggressive programs? Does people tendency for aggressive actions make them choose aggressive programs to satisfy themselves?

This question has two different answers. First, in media where the audience has the right to choose the content, tendency to choose aggressive contents might reinforce aggressiveness. In TV, the problem is somewhat different. Child is born in a family where TV is usually on. In this family aggressiveness cannot be avoided. Tendency and interest which might affect the selection in other media are themselves affected by TV. Thus the main question is not that what is the effect of being subject to information and entertainment together with the media aggressiveness on different behavioral patterns.

We should always remember that visual media, are one of the best and most determining techniques in internal fights and international fights for motivating the public and suppressing it also.

Another important point is that if all criminal scenes are removed, there might be as much criminals in to society as it does now. It should not be forgotten that visual media can reduce the social crimes and implement an ideal future without crime.

Thus, we conclude that visual media are very effective in our children's lives; such that it is felt that such media are a member of the family. Such media can have positive effects with their scientific and useful programs or on the contrary they can be very negative and mislead children. Unfortunately most studies show that their negative effect is much more than their positive impact.

Recommendations

• Parent should take care of their children and educate them and accompany their child while watching TV; the hours of watching visual media and type of programs should be determined, the child should not be told what films to watch and what films not to watch, because this makes the child more sensitive, thus he/ she will watch those films hidden and will disobey the parents.

• Parents and education authorities should teach the children how to use such media correctly by correct planning and for this purpose we should produce products which are compatible with our culture and even export them to other countries and prevent importing invalid and destructive games to the country and the parents monitor their children while playing such games and teach them the right culture for using visual media.

• Parents should talk to their children about the purpose of media and how they affect our life. That is, they should remember their childhood and understand their child better; because how adults look at the world is different with children. So we should get into the child's shoes and predict the effects on spirit and intellect.

• Parents should spend more time with their children and take them to Park, gym, walking, mountain climbing and etc to entertain them and pervert them from media.

• The most destructive type of visual games are those which appear on the screen repeatedly and the child has to shoot all the images. These games should be less available to children.

• The children should be forbidden from playing horrible, aggressive and war games which will only bring aggressive behaviors.

• Intellectual games should be provided in order to grow their creativity and innovation and for this purpose, attractive educational software can be used.

• The time spending on visual media should be restricted to special days for example holidays.

• They should explain their children that what dangerous effects they might experience by using media.

• While watching media they should be accompanied and programs suitable for their age should be selected to avoid the prevention and their crime in future.

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