

A Study on Impact of Mass Media on Causation of Crime Among Youth

Chandan KP

Guest Faculty

*Department of Studies in Social Work
University of Mysore, Manasagangothri, Mysuru*

Abstract - Crime and its reporting is a very sensitive and sensational issue. The nature and method of reporting crime in media is always startling. The influence of media reports of crime among youth is an area where studies have to be undertaken. The present paper researches the elements that contribute and impacts the youth for commission of crime after viewing the crime narratives in mass media. The present paper tries to find the relation between media and crime. The study also throws light on how the youth perceives the concept of crime through mass media and how it affects them. From the study it is evident that the crime oriented media content influences, give ideas to commit crime among youth. The relationship between criminal justice system and media system is clearly established in the present paper.

Key words: Crime, Mass media, Youth, Influences, Impact.

I. INTRODUCTION

We are surrounded by electronic and print media. For most household there are multiple television channels available- for some there are hundreds. Although readership of national newspaper has been declining for some years, there has been a sizeable expansion of the magazine and free paper market, and the arrival of digital broadcasting has meant the relatively .Availability of hundreds of radio stations. The broadcasting of so-called 'rolling news'-24-hour news stories on a continuous cycle- has become trend for most television and radio stations. Moreover m advance in electronic forms of communication means that pictures and sound can be jived on one side of the world pretty much as they are recorded on the other side. The sequences are arguably profound. First, the mass media feel like an almost ever-present of our contemporary lives. Second, news from around the world arrives on our screens and radios in ways that make the geographical difference involved all but disappear. Crime has become a staple of the mass media. For television, crime, magazine, newspaper and books, crime is a central, even dominant, theme. Fiction and non-fiction alike find crime to be irresistible. Media crime stories. Whether the news or entertainment genre, instruct and the relationship between the criminal justice system and the media system has been the subject of research, speculation and commentary throughout the 20th century. This relationship may be understood in terms of dependency relations operative between these massive systems. Neither the media not the criminal justice system could operate without the other. The criminal justice system is a resource for the media system in that it affords one of the common sources of news and entertainment stories. Commercial media organization translate this relationship with their fiancé into the profit that from advertisement. The media reach its audience and policymakers through its both positive and negative propaganda to grip there audience.

Media effects on public perception are often discussed, yet are difficult to measure how certain aspects of print media reportage generate a fear of crime in society. The researchers say that -media coverage is found to contribute to increasing victimization and feelings of insecurity, in terms of locality of crimes, moral decline and neighborhood degradation disorganization and physical / social disabilities of contemporary urban life, typified by symbols of disorder and crime, teenagers on the streets, abandoned buildings, graffiti, illegal drugs, public drunkenness and vandalism are thought to increase urban unease and consequently fear of crime. Crime news has situated crime as a 'problem frame' which fuels a 'fear of crime' mentality, feeds on public opinion and perception, and strengthens repressive and 'tougher' public policies on crime and criminal penalties.

For example, increasing media coverage of youth crime has been linked to more repressive criminal justice policies .Media coverage can negatively influence the implementation of new measures, whereby an isolated event can influence large scale changes even if previous measures have not yet been evaluated or produced their effects. However, to assert that media reports prompt the adoption of tough' crime policies and punitive attitudes remains a challenging task. There are ongoing debates on the extent to which the media plays a role in the 'production of violence'. The direct influence has not yet been proven, however assumptions suggest a more or less causal link. Studies demonstrate a stronger relationship between media exposure and the desensitization of certain

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature review means to find other articles, books or information about the subject you are researching. One of the purposes is to show that your subject is worthy of researching because others have also researched about it. If the subject you are researching is controversial, then it furthermore gives you both sides of the argument and will find more in favor of the side you defending. It also gives you a place where to begin to write and research your subject. . Following are the selected reviews of articles from the above sources. Researcher has reviewed 20 articles on Mass Media and Crime.

Research Article by Barlow, Barlow and Chiricos (1995)," Economic conditions and ideologies of crime in the Media." Used content analysis. The topic of the study was how the media portrays crime and criminals. The hypothesis was that the media give a distorted picture of crime and the distortion is linked to change in economic conditions. In particular, the authors predicted that mere negative image of crime and criminal occur when unemployment is high or the economy is in recession. Thus, the independent variable was the unemployment rate and the dependent variable was how negative the offender was presented. The research question was: Does the news media give a distorted picture of crime, with the distortion based on a value and belief system that condemns offenders most harshly when economic condition was bad?

Educating journalists on the impact of coverage and opportunities for providing balance and context in their stories may lead to more accurate information and careful planning in news coverage of crime and violence.

A very recently released study by Johnson, Cohen, Smailes, Kasen, and Brook (2002) was published in the magazine Science.

This study collected self-report and maternal report data beginning in 1975 in a study of children in the community. The independent variable was hours of television viewing per day, divided into three groupings (< 1 h, 1-3 h, > 3 h). This is a measure of overall television viewing, not violence viewing per se, so the findings should be interpreted accordingly.

The authors found that net of controls, there was a higher prevalence of assaults, robberies, and aggressive acts more generally among individuals who watched more than 1 hour of television in adolescence (average age 14) 2 to 8 years later when they were young adults (measurements were made when their average age was 16 and again at 22) than among individuals who watched less than 1 hour of television. Though not statistically significant, it was clear that prevalence rates were also higher among those watching more than 3 h than 1-3 h. Furthermore, the prevalence of violent behaviors at average age 30 (ages ranged from approximately 25 to 35) among those viewing more than 3 h per day as a young adult (average age 22) were higher than among those who watched less than 3 h of television a day. Some, not all, of the findings held when the authors controlled for previous and subsequent television viewing. The analysis is difficult to evaluate thoroughly because the article is short and does not contain a great deal of detail. Furthermore, it was difficult to find the detail in other works cited. First, the subject ages seem somewhat inappropriate for testing the theory that has received the most attention in recent years—that a diet of television violence leads to violent behavior in children. Many studies suggest that aggressive tendencies are established rather early in life and the earliest measures in this study were taken when subjects were an average age of 14 years old (ages ranged from about 9 to 19). The second set of comparisons that were reported examining the effects of television viewing in young adulthood (average age 22) are a little more ambiguous. The author's reports that control factors were used but do not specify which ones. The control factors used in the prior analysis seem inappropriate (it does not make sense to control for neglect among subjects aged 17-27), and because violent behaviors were measured in young adulthood, this measure should have been used as a control. There are additional problems with this comparison—at this age, of course, watching a great deal of television could be associated with unemployment, depression, intelligence, whether the subject has children or not, whether the subject is a high school

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter provides a systematic description of the methodological procedure adopted for the study of the Impact of mass media on crime. The methodology includes importance of the study, statement of the problem, aim of the

study, objectives of the study, research design, universe of the study, sampling method, sample size, method of data collection, limitations of the study and analysis and interpretation of data.

3.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The impact of the mass media on crime and justice is recognized as substantial, and serious interest in the topic can be traced to a number of historical trials and crimes. The current issues in the public mind revolve around the effect of publicity on the processing of criminal cases, the effect of violent media on social aggression and crime, and the effect of sexual media on sexual behavior. The relationship between news media and terrorism, pernicious effects from video games, and various efforts to use the media to reduce and solve crime. Mass media, crime, and justice encompass a broad set of disciplines such as law, sociology, criminology, communications and mass media, and theoretical perspectives such as diffusion, social learning, social constructionism, critical criminology, cognitive psychology and imitation. Under this broad umbrella, the study of social events from the discovery and investigation of crimes, arrest and crime prevention, criminal trials, to prison riots and escapes and social processes such as policy formation, news production, entertainment marketing, and criminalization and decriminalization of behaviors is included.

3.3 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study is to identify the effects of Mass media on causation of crime.

3.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are the following;

- a.) To understand the role played by mass media on students.
- b.) To find out whether obscenity and vulgarity spreads through Mass media content.
- c.) To find out the aggressive behavior emerging from mass media content.
- d.) To understand students media content viewing habit, daily usage and accessibility.
- e.) To find out whether pervasive content in the media aggravates offences.

3.5 RESEARCH DESIGN

For the purpose of present study the researcher has used both descriptive and exploratory research design.

It is descriptive because the researchers have described the effects of the media motivating them to develop criminal mind set , it is also exploratory in nature because the researchers have gone into the depth of the mindset of the youth and tried to identify the hidden and innermost facts as to how they motivate themselves to commit crime.

3.6 UNIVERSE OF THE STUDY

The study has been carried out in the Manasagangothri Campus University of Mysore, Mysuru city. That constitutes the universe of the study.

3.7 SAMPLING METHOD

The researcher has followed convenient simple random sampling technique. It is convenient simple random sampling because the researchers have randomly selected the respondents from 3 different subjects i.e. pure Science, Social science and also commerce subjects.

3.8 SAMPLE SIZE

For the purpose of present study the researcher has selected 50 respondents from different disciplines. This constitutes the sample size.

3.9 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

For the purpose of data collection the researcher has used a structured questionnaire. Here the researchers have the prospective respondents from 3 different disciplines, distributed the questionnaires among them and collected the filled in questionnaire from them immediately. The data for this study was collected in the month of April, 2018. The primary data was collected by April 28, 2018.

3.10 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

In the present research, the area of study is limited only to Manasagangotri campus, University of Mysore, Mysuru. The sample size for the study was taken as 50 members and the data was collected only from the students. Since the study doesn't consider any other population other than students the results of the study cannot be generalized. However, in future in depth studies in this area can be helpful in understanding the relationship between causation of crime and impact of media.

3.11 DATA PROCESSING

The collected data has been edited, coded and classified into required parts, the same has been analyzed using percentage method, tables and graphs have been used for each variable and they have been described below each table and graphs, according the findings.

IV. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 FINDINGS THE STUDY

This study briefly reveals the opinions of students of various disciplines in Manasagangotri campus, University of Mysore with various courses, different age group and nationality regarding the "Impact of mass media on crime". The findings of the study as follows:-

- From the study it is clear that out of 50 respondents 43(86%) of them said they own smart phone with Internet access while 7(14%) of them said no. Hence it is clear that majority of them own smart phone with Internet access.
- From the study it is evident that out of 50 respondents, 41(82%) of them said that mass media can reduce crime in society and 9(18%) said No. Hence it is clear that majority of them said that mass media can reduce crime in society.
- The study claims that out of 50 respondents 38(76%) of them said they use Internet through PC. while 12(24%) of them said no. Hence it is clear that majority of them use Internet through PC.
- The study proves that out of total 50 respondents 29(58%) of them use mass media for entertainment. Next comes information 13(26%) and respondents make use of mass media for educational purpose and as a hobby are equal in numbers that is 4(8%).
- The majority of the respondents said that crimes on mass media have an impact on them in some sense that is out of 50 respondents 37(74%). The remaining 13(26%) said that crimes on mass media doesn't have an impact on them in any sense.
- Respondents choice of media opted for accessing crime news content and it shows that maximum access to visual media 54 %(27) from the total of 50 respondents. Internet stands at 28 %(14), print media at 18 %(9) and no one prefers audio media.
- Findings of the study states that out of 50 respondents 38(76%) of them continue to watch it while 12(24%) of them switch over to another channel whenever there are programs that are vulgar, obscene.
- From the study it is evident that out of 50 respondents 25(50%) of them read articles related to justice system every day, 14(28%) of them read couple of time a month and 11(22%) of them never read those types of articles.
- From the study it is clear that out of 50 respondents 14(28%) have said that crime related sensitive video footage cases and events should be shown in mass media while 36(72%) have said that crime related sensitive video footage cases and events should not be shown in mass media. Hence it is clear that majority said that crime related sensitive video footage cases and events should not be shown in mass media.
- In the present study out of 50 respondents 18(36%) want to see blood, foul language , obscene scenes and violence in movies while 32(64%) of them opted No. Hence it is clear that majority of them don't want to see blood, foul language, obscene scenes and violence in movies.
- The study reveals that out of 50 respondents 3(6%) had direct contact with criminal justice system and remaining 47(94%) respondents never had that type of contact.

- The study assures that out of 50 respondents 21(42%) have convinced that they have encountered with crime oriented contents in social media while 29(58%) of them said no. Hence it is clear that majority of them are convinced that they have not encountered with crime oriented contents in social media.
- From the study it is evident that out of 50 respondents 24(48%) said they watch media content with soft porn and partial nakedness while 26(52%) said no, hence majority of them do not watch media content with soft porn and partial nakedness.
- The study finds that out of 50 respondents, 36(72%) of them said media content with soft porn and partial nakedness provokes crime against women. and 14(28%) said no. Hence it is clear that majority of them said media content with soft porn and partial nakedness provokes crime against women.
- Out of 50 respondents, 39(78%) of them said mass media influences the increasing number of crime rate in school children and 11(22%) said no. Hence it is clear that majority of them said mass media influences the increasing number of crime rate in school children.
- Out of 50 respondents 17(34%) of them said mass media always help in increasing awareness and crime prevention and 31(62%) said it helps in certain occasions, 2(4%) have said it doesn't help at all..
- From the study it is evident that out of 50 respondents, 41(82%) of them said that crime oriented media content influences, give ideas to commit crime and 9(18%) said no. Hence it is clear that majority of them said that crime oriented media content influences, give ideas to commit crime.
- The study finds out that out of 50 respondents, 42(84%) of them said that portrayal of criminals as heroes in movies have an effect on youth and 8(16%) said no. Hence it is clear that majority of them said that portrayal of criminals as heroes in movies have an effect on youth.
- The present study assures that out of 50 respondents, 41(82%) of them said that mass media can reduce crime in society and 9(18%) said no. Hence it is clear that majority of them said that mass media can reduce crime in society.
- From the study it is found that current generations students don't just rely on print media but majority prefer visual media to access daily news update which also include crime related news update also. This helps them to be aware of various crime trends in recent times.
- Researchers have also able to find that students are not totally relied on web for their daily news update but all of them also watch various news channels. This shows that many students are aware of recent crime rate and justice system of the country by reading news articles and headlines in newspapers and magazines
- Researchers found that students don't wish to see blood, foul language, obscene scenes, and violent movies. This shows that they discourage these types of activities in movies. Researchers also found out that even obscene content in movies doesn't excites the respondents to commit crime. Respondents have revealed that they have not encountered crime oriented contents in social media while students are unclear about, whether obscene media content, soft porn, partial nudeness provoke crime against women.
- Researchers also found that many students' wishes to know aspects of crime and to what extent crime activities can harm the society and the role of police and justice system in responding to criminal activities.
- Researchers have also able to find that students feel crime related media content influences, give ideas to commit crime. Respondents have revealed that portrayal of criminals as heroes in movies have an effect on the youth. But students are unclear that whether mass media can reduce crime in society.

V. CONCLUSION

The media are among the sources of information people count on to mould their opinion of the world around them. With respect to the presence of crime in said world, we believe the media are the primary source of information. The relationship between the criminal justice system and the media system has been the subject of research, speculation, and commentary throughout the twentieth century, with nervous tension and conflict and cooperation between the media and crime justice. The relationship between the media and criminal justice system is a dynamic one that reflects changes in the larger social and political environment where conceptions of justice and community are formed. People must constantly update their understanding and ability to orient themselves to the environments in which they act. For the criminal justice system to have legitimacy for its administration of the criminal law and for the media system to have legitimacy for its contributions to civil society, each must be regarded as playing vital roles in furtherance of a democratic order that commands the allegiance of its citizens. General people should control their TV viewing habit and they should not believe whatever raw crime content is served to them through

mass media channels, they should be curious enough to know behind the scene aspects and discuss and generate public opinion because many a times the raw crime content is shown in TV channels, newspapers, magazines to gain popularity in their circulation, and so it becomes the duty of the general mass of people not to get carried away by the glamorized crime content of the media but also generate curiosity to know the know-how of shown content.

From this study it is seen that mass of youth are aware of type of crime and criminal activities taking place in current situation but they are heavily relying on what is shown to them as it is through various media source. Though media is of great help to the society but it has both positive and negative impacts as well. People tend to judge on the spot about the shown content then and there without understanding the know-how of the event. The early exposure of the children and youth to the various sources of mass media might be considered as one among the severe reason why few drift towards the criminal activities at a very young age by watching the glamorized crime content in media. In real life all the hyped crime content in media should be taken as a part of daily entertainment and should not be linked to reality.

Here is need for government to step in take strict action against channels glamorizing crime event and responsible journalism.

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