

The Role of Media in Criminalization and Family Collapse

Abstract

On the one hand, the family is the most important social institution and the foundation for the establishment and growth of many values; on the other hand, the family's actions and functions are responsible for many of society's issues and damages. Without question, the family may serve as both the foundation and the most powerful component in averting societal damage. However, in recent years, the country's official statistics have raised concerns about several factors associated with this institution. Accordingly, the present study aims to investigate the impact of the media on crime and family dissolution. Using library resources, the research technique is descriptive-analytical. According to studies, the negative aspects of mass media have gone so far as to have a direct influence on individual delinquency in society. As a result, prostitution, murder, jail, and other forms of crime have become more prevalent in society. Each of these atrocities shatters the family's safe foundation. When the loving family core is threatened in this way, the upbringing of the children, who are the future of our civilization, will be affected, increasing crime, instability, and disorder in the community. Despite its beneficial aspects, mass media poses a severe danger to the family's foundation, and families must exercise extreme caution in their use of the media, recognize its positive aspects, and fully profit from them.

Keywords: *family institution, media role, criminality, family collapse*

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Introduction

The family is the ideal structure for addressing human beings' material, psychological, and spiritual requirements, and it may give the best platform for providing members with security and peace of mind, raising a new generation, socializing children, and meeting emotional needs. On the other hand, today's mass media play such a significant part in human existence that the current epoch is known as the "Age of Communication." The mission of informing is the obligation of the mass media all around the world. Today, the media has altered current man's identity by crossing geographical, cultural, and political barriers, to the point that modern man's identity may be referred to as media identity. [1]

The media (radio, television, newspaper, cinema, etc.) are great tools that are manifestations of human technological growth and have propelled society forward. These concerns have influenced the creation of new habits, the emergence of new world cultures, changes in human behavior and temperament, and, lastly, the tiny planet's proximity to faraway nations as some call the current age "information age" and the degree of cohesion of society with the astonishing horizon of new changes and the extent of its stimulation in the field of communication, as some call the current age as "information age" and the rate of cohesion of society with the astonishing horizon of new changes and the extent of its stimulation in the field of communication [2].

However, societal perversions such as rape, violence, and murder are occasionally exposed by the media, which includes newspapers, magazines, radio, and television, and show their audiences the hidden sides of love and crime stories, as well as warn them about the types of traps that young people fall into. They also play an important role in avoiding social aberrations

by giving timely and relevant information to members of the community [3].

Despite the beneficial aspects of the media, its negative aspects must also be considered. Judith Doyva, a researcher from the University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada, cites multiple national surveys collected by the Canadian Arbitration Commission, demonstrating that 95% of interviewees utilize the media as their primary source of crime information. He demonstrates that the media impacts public opinion and politics in both positive and harmful ways [4]. As a result, the media is seen as the most significant, appealing, and, at the same time, most critical part of modern society. Meanwhile, visual media, particularly television, satellite TV networks, and the Internet, play a larger role than previous forms of media. Consequently, the advent and spread of mass media have fundamentally altered how culture is passed down from generation to generation. Furthermore, the mass media's function is critical for the quick transmission of culture since it can deliver a big volume of information to a broad audience at the same time. In the form or substance of news or amusement, each sort of media (television, radio, newspaper, magazine, book, film, etc.) delivers cultural meanings [5].

Family life in today's culture occurs in a less-than-private setting. Many family concerns and difficulties are discussed in the media, and significant debates take place on many family occasions [6]. The family's institution has experienced considerable modifications as a result of the remodeling components, and these changes have caused problems for the family. The structure, function, and value of the family institution have all undergone significant modifications and alterations as a result of these advances. With the entrance of technology and mass media into households, family social

values have been impacted, resulting in changes in the younger generation's conduct and speech. As a result, the effect of the media on crime and family collapse is explored using a descriptive-analytical technique in this study.

Theoretical foundations

1. The relationship between crime and the mass media

The mass media, with its richness and breadth, may have detrimental and misguided impacts if they disseminate criminal activity. The media may play an effective role in spreading crime or limiting its scope among members of the community because of their quickness and range of abilities to educate on several issues to members of the community. In other words, by portraying an exaggerated picture of societal difficulties, the media may efficiently develop and disseminate criminal inclinations in society [7].

Since these commercials will be the source of a high number of unfulfilled claims with very few options to achieve them, the mass media, particularly the advertising sector, puts a lot of pressure on individuals who have very few instruments to succeed through legal and natural routes. As a result of this circumstance, some members of the community aspire to attain society's common aims and ideals through illegitimate and unlawful means [8]. In this way, the media encourages individuals who are willing to commit a crime to say their goodbyes.

However, other social elements and interactions, such as the conduct of parents, siblings, and other family members, peer groups and school classmates, rituals, and social traditions, should not be overlooked in addition to the importance of these media [9]. On the other side, one of the major worries about the media is its proclivity for depicting violent situations and fostering these mental states in society's members, particularly children, and teenagers. As a result, the mass media's endeavor, willingly or unwillingly, to cover a wide variety of matters linked to the perpetrator, the method in which the crime was done, and the occurrences and events surrounding it incite people with a criminal history to conduct similar crimes. Indeed, when it comes to crime and delinquency, the media may be a very powerful agitator, facilitator, and weapon of crime [10].

Considering the stimulating role of the media in crime, it should be noted that, owing to the vast connection that these media have with citizens, they can easily communicate whatever they want to them. The media, by the content they broadcast, might normalize the criminal phenomena, allowing persons who are prone to delinquency to continue with confidence in committing a crime [11]. As a result, the normalization of delinquency and crime in society is a powerful factor in motivating people to commit various crimes.

These technologies, in addition to producing novels, serials, and movies, accidentally educate individuals on other ways to commit crimes. Furthermore, the importance of these media in raising public knowledge of new lethal or non-fatal weapons or new ways of committing a crime that the majority of these people are unaware of cannot be overlooked. According to studies on this subject, anytime a new method or means is utilized to commit a crime in a famous TV show or film, comparable crimes with the same means or method have happened in society [12].

The frequency of violence in television shows, according to certain writers, is extensively established. Since 1967, extensive studies examining the most-watched weekend TV series on all major American television networks have been done. On average, 80% of these shows feature violence, with 7.5 violent occurrences being captured each hour. Even though homicide is less likely in children's shows, cartoons have more violent deeds and adventures than any other television program [13].

"Not acknowledging the role of the media makes the decision-making and policy-making process at the macro level harder and sterilizes the institutions in charge of generating order, extending the spectrum of social vulnerabilities and crime in society," according to social problem researchers. The first focus of research on the link between media violence and social aggressiveness was on two opposing hypotheses: emotional weariness and provocation. According to the emotional discharge hypothesis, correctly viewing violent acts is therapeutic and causes anger and hatred to be released from people who do not have the opportunity or possibility of experiencing violent feelings and behavior, whereas the provocative hypothesis claims that continuous viewing of violent behaviors hurts human personality and attitude.

The hypothesis of emotional evacuation has allegedly been put out by Freud supporters, who claim that viewing a movie is a "laxative" or mental "laxative" that helps a youngster to escape the stresses and stimulation of aggressiveness. "Without dismissing the whole worth of this theory of psychoanalysis, one must cautiously embrace the part of this theory in the current condition of filmmaking," says one expert on its appraisal. If violent films and violent scenes soothe and lighten a child's or adolescent's spinning spirit, sex films, on the other hand, increase their excitement and provide opportunities for them to deviate and rape, but films that are carefully examined and contain useful and informative messages can be considered a psychotherapeutic image for adolescents spectator healer"[9]. If media violence elicits emotional outpourings from aggressive audiences, it may encourage and promote violence in other audiences, according to Freud's supporters, and the media, as proponents of provocative theories, argue, provoke aggression in society.

There is no unanimity on how the media influences crime in society; in other words, while criminologists have favored the provocation theory over the emotional evacuation hypothesis, there is still substantial debate. In response to the findings of research on the influence of the media on crime in society, one of the experts [13] wrote: "The majority of these studies are not conclusive in their inference." For instance, it is unclear to what degree violent displays encourage aggressive conduct in youngsters, but there is little doubt that the media has a significant impact on public views and attitudes. He also mentions the findings of a study that focuses on "questions of justice and retribution in criminal plays." "It cannot be assumed that the high degree of violence directly presented among the audience generates a model for imitation that is impacted more by the underlying moral concerns." The separation of personality and environmental elements influencing delinquency, as well as the consideration of the function of the media as an environmental component, has caused criminologists to be careful in appraising the influence of the mass media in committing crime.

Individuals are led to crime by the individual (physical or mental), predisposing (heredity), preparing (alkim), and producing and executing elements (environment) or those that have a significant effect, according to studies. "It's unusual for a single component to have a 100 percent part in a crime; instead, it's the outcome of a mix of individual and communal circumstances." None of the criminologists feel that the media is the sole or primary source of crime. Conversely, they argue that violent and criminal shows on television and other forms of mass media simply serve to mobilize criminal preparedness and skill. They believe that the origins of delinquency may be found in offenders' personalities, familial relationships, and social surroundings.

Controversy over the effects of media violence is also influenced by various perceptions of the audience's influence on the media. They presuppose and dismiss the impact of social variables and connections on individuals' ability to commit crimes. "It is an exaggerated image to think of children and adolescents as vulnerable wax, and to recognize television alone as a powerful factor that can leave them in any role it wants," one of the authors says, "while ignoring the influence of other social factors and relationships such as the behavior of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, other family members, peers, and school classmates, religion, and social rituals and traditions."

2. The role of media on children and adolescents delinquency

One of the subjects that have always been addressed in public in the media is the extent to which the content of these devices impacts criminal, anti-social, and abnormal behaviors, and they have worked hard to analyze the harmful impact of these

media on the audience. Since the emergence of the contemporary media business, society has gotten more violent, and this topic is frequently discussed as an accepted concept. According to several specialists, it is evident that as these media are introduced into society, the prevalence of crime grows. According to Neil Postman, the rate of severe criminal acts among young people under the age of 15 grew 110-fold between 1950 and 1979. According to him, television has affected the decline of childhood and the disappearance of children from human existence, as well as the copying of adult acts, which are among the negative developments of the present era [14]. Thus, intellectuals and researchers are concerned about the instrumental and unrestricted use of these instruments, as well as their sociocultural impacts on human communities, which will lead to perversion, corruption, and criminality among children and teenagers in particular. According to Lazarsfeld and Merton, the media is a tremendously powerful instrument that may be used for good or evil, and it is more likely to be used for evil in the absence of adequate management [12].

According to Himmloit and Smith's study of violent sequences in movies, such programs have the greatest impact on children and teenagers. The relevance of this is that children and teenagers are unable to distinguish between truth and imagination, and as a result, they may believe that all situations portrayed in the media are true. As a result, if they are tied to nasty media material, it is likely that the rapid growth of virtual computers and mobile networks, as well as the widespread use of these devices by adolescents, are the root of many criminal inclinations. Cyberspace has benefited greatly from variables such as "transcendence" and "transcendence," "high accessibility," "interactivity," "multimedia," "fluidity," "augmentation of reality," and "anonymity" [15].

One of the most significant spontaneous variables in controlling individuals and reducing crime in society is social values and standards. However, the daily showing of malicious and abnormal scenes in the movies acquaints people with these scenes and, by repeating them, reduces their ugliness and negative burden in the minds of the audience, as they are no longer affected by news of catastrophic events at the community level, and society's sensitivity to such issues gradually diminishes.

Nowadays, the creation of audio-visual and entertainment products has become a profession and a trade, and every producer tries to stay ahead of their competitors in this field, to succeed in this field, he inevitably turns to create products with a spark of emotion, excitement, exaggeration, and imagination, among other things. Teenagers are full of emotion and enthusiasm, which makes them easy targets for these creators' malevolent motives.

The younger generation is increasingly numerous and more reliant on the media in practically all nations, particularly emerging countries. According to a study performed in Tehran, the majority of TV watchers are children under the age of 15, followed by housewives and then young people beyond the age of 15 [16].

On the other hand, two critical discourses were formed against computer games: one was about their impact on the creation and internalization of violence and violent crimes in children and adolescents, and the other was about their impact on the creation and internalization of violence and violent crimes in adults. Then the critique of the computer game addiction scheme was raised, which claimed that, on the one hand, computer game addicts did not demonstrate a desire to participate in other social activities, and, on the other hand, they suffered from a sense of isolation and distance from group work [17].

The introduction of computer games was followed by a negative perspective of them, nicknamed the parental view, which has been linked to prohibiting games for minors between the ages of 10 and 20 years in the United States [17]. From this perspective, the impact of these games has several aspects, including the internalization of violence and isolation in the short and long term [18]. One of the writers [19] recognized and described pornographic predisposition, aggression, racial views, and addiction as some of the downsides.

Although computer games are suitable for individuals of all ages, one of the writers feels that their primary impact is on teens and young people. Despite all of the efforts, he believes that all kids now have ready access to violent games such as the US Army. His research shows that teenage criminals, and armed and gun-related behaviors in the United States frequently have a history of playing violent video games [18]. Adolescents who shoot in the United States are also known to engage in violent entertainment, according to the FBI [18].

According to studies, violent computer and Internet games have inspired real-world crime, and these crimes have influenced the form and narrative of these crimes. There are two options in these games, and the player can choose between killing or dying [18]. According to one researcher (based on a 2004 study), children aged 10 to 9 who spend more time playing computer games are less empathetic to others and have more aggressive actions and attitudes [19]. According to a study, violent TV games such as *Odyssey* and *Deadly Battle*, on the one hand, feed the masculine need for control, power, and destruction, and on the other hand, offer violence, criminality, and anti-social behavior an artistic component. In a manner, the aesthetics of violence, the internalization of heterosexuality, and the culture of heterosexuality and crime are all functions of some of these games [17]. One researcher in detecting computer-related crimes separates them into three

groups, crimes in which computer software is a target, crimes in which computer software is an auxiliary concern, and so on, in a historical context that explores the growth of cybercrime. These things may exist in the computer-created space or are directed to components outside of it [20]. However, as one expert points out, criminality has increased as a result of technological advancements. Var defines cybercrime as "an activity in which a computer or a network of computers is used as a tool for breaching the law, violating the law, and breaking the rules recognized by society" [20].

Crime in cyberspace, like crime in other sorts of human and social settings, may be said to erode one's sense of security and be accompanied by invasions of privacy. Crime against law and order exists in cyberspace as well. Although cybercrime affects all socioeconomic groups on Internet, the dangers of crime are particularly widespread among teenagers. It's easy to see why certain populations are more at risk. Fear, excitement, generating a sense of belonging, and trust are among the linguistic and psychological methods used by cybercriminals. Adolescents and young people, on the other hand, are seen to be star-studded groups vs reference groups, with a lot of excitement and passion and a desire to take risks, according to some [21].

3. The role of the Internet in women's delinquency

Today, criminality in any socioeconomic stratum, particularly among women, has become one of the most pressing societal challenges in various societies [22]. The relationship between spousal abuse and psychological problems was investigated in three sociological studies, and it was discovered that women who were abused had significantly more major mental disorders than women who were not abused, which is a cause of delinquency and abnormal behavior in them [23]. The emergence and spread of computer communication, like the emergence and spread of other communication media in the past, has prompted numerous discussions and studies on individual and social effects, both short- and long-term, deep and superficial, to demonstrate positive and negative effects [24].

Family economic hardship, bad friends, religious poverty, how they use their free time, and family social situations are some of the elements that influence women's willingness to utilize the Internet [25]. A study found that a hostile home situation and marital separation not only endanger children's mental health but also increase spouses' and their children's urge to use the Internet [26]. According to a review of studies completed in Iran, sexual incompatibility is widespread among married women, and it can be a key cause of communication difficulties and create the foundation for female criminal behavior [27]. In a study titled *The Relationship Between Parental Separation and Student Social Interactions and Student Delinquency in Schools*, a researcher discovered that in families with

economic and communication problems, as well as low religious affiliations, a variety of deviations, such as cybercrime and Internet addiction, are found among both children and parents, particularly women, as well as a reduction in their healthy interactions with others [28].

Addiction to the Internet, cyberspace, the virtual world, and cybercrime is common in several social domains, causing significant harm and consequences [29], particularly if this occurs among women. The disintegration of moral principles and the social structure, which causes significant damage to society's economic, political, and cultural institutions, is one of the most serious injuries to individuals and society. The more advanced computer technology becomes, the more computer crimes related to immorality will emerge, posing a threat to families' social and basic order. While the media, like other human tools, can serve the lofty ideals of human beings and societies, satellite networks, in the form of programs and advertisements, propagate immoral manifestations; satellite is currently the most used service to create and spread prostitution and prostitution among young people. Some of the purposes of media, such as satellites, whose moral and family blows are not veiled, include promoting promiscuity, displaying cosmetics to people, fostering illegal partnerships, and disseminating wicked cravings that lead individuals into the valley [30].

4. The effect of mass media on the occurrence of honor killings

On the one hand, the role of mass media in the incidence of honor killings can be examined in two ways: on the one hand, these media play a positive and active role in transmitting a society's culture and replacing an old culture with a new and new culture; on the other hand, these media play a negative and passive role in transmitting a society's culture and replacing an old culture with a new and new culture. In this sense, the media's involvement in producing educational programs to modify people's attitudes, ideas, and values about honor murders and abolish them from society is critical. This can be accomplished, for example, by boosting new and diverse means of responding to women and girls who participate in suspicious or inappropriate behavior or by changing societal norms and thoughts about such people in such a way that, in their public minds, those who have endangered the family's reputation and should be lost, become those who have made a mistake and deserve a chance, and with such an appropriate perspective and reaction, one's life and the lives of others can be saved.

In contrast to this position, the mass media may have a catastrophic and rising influence on the number of honor murders in society, intentionally or unwillingly. These media channels can contribute to the spread of honor murders by transmitting themes that glorify people who commit honor

killings or by laying the atmosphere for perpetrators to engage in behaviors such as fostering a culture of honor or supporting obsessive conduct through their programming. When a group of people in a society underestimates its values and norms as a result of the activities of epidemic media such as television, the result is that this group of other people is reluctant to follow those norms, which can lead to conflict between members of society, including family members. A problem that some people who follow traditions feel highly precious and must be honored and appreciated is not regarded as important or even mocked by others, and in many circumstances, it operates in the opposite direction, resulting in harsh reactions from others. Consider society's opinion of the connection between girls and males, for example. The image of amicable interactions, intimate and without the legal consent of girls and boys in this sector that television portrays is a far cry from what occurs in most traditional Iranian cultures. Most parents find such relationships very distasteful; according to surveys of parents' satisfaction with the way such relationships are portrayed in mass media such as television, more than 76 percent believe their children will be severely abused if they engage in sex with the opposite sex [31].

Television, like other forms of mass communication, has an interactive influence on society and is crucial in the development of new habits that alter human behavior and mood. As a result, television is both effective and being affected [32].

Television shows may have a huge influence on how society perceives and views women, as well as the kind of behaviors and activities they engage in. The position of women has evolved slightly in recent years, according to research on how television shows evaluate and reflect on women. Unlike in the past, when women's views were extremely different from men's, there has been a steady shift in this perspective, not only as a result of changes in reality and the current circumstances but also as a result of shifts in culture makers' views of women. Women's faces in Iranian TV programs have changed as a result of these developments. In the past, the image of a woman presented in cinema was a traditional one, in which a woman's most important role was that of a family member, including that of a wife and mother, but in recent years, women in leading roles have been employed, educated, and participate in social activities outside the home [33].

Some TV shows are created with the topic of mistrust and suspicion of the film's protagonists, and with a strong reaction that is only exhibited via rumors and distrust of the film's protagonists, it will have many direct and indirect detrimental impacts on the minds of the viewers. It's worth noting that a substantial majority of honor killings in society are motivated by family men's incorrect assumptions about women who are connected to them. According to gender stereotypes, men and

women in society have distinct qualities, actions, and mental states, as well as the capacity to do activities and tasks that are typically dissimilar. On the one hand, stereotyping attributes to women's qualities and skills that are not present in men, while on the other hand, stereotyping attributes to men's abilities and characteristics that are not present in women [34].

Honor killings and honor killings-related films can be categorized into two categories: the first group includes films whose subject matter is unrelated to the issues at hand, but which contain a succession of ideas and imagery that indirectly examine women's actions and behavior in society. Indeed, in these films, norms and rituals are employed to excuse honor killings to some extent. As a result, they assist in the formation, development, and diffusion of these customs, as well as their expansion. The second group of films is those that deal directly with honor killings, and in some ways, its protagonist is perpetrating an honor killing. In these films, a protagonist is essentially a person who kills a relative on honor grounds, and while he dies after the movie, the heroes' motivation is generally to do so to protect their family's honor and dignity.

While presenting the crime scenes and the manner of murder, the press is one of the essential instruments for teaching the way of committing crimes, which indicates that the most important reason for individuals to be affected by the press is their desire to emulate [35]. All significant behaviors in social life are inspired by an example, according to the "imitation" idea. Everyone is mimicked in their actions. Theorists claim that individuals are unable to invent anything they desire on their own. According to studies, the press has a strong tendency to repeatedly correlate gender with violence, making the two seem inextricably linked. Among these, sexually motivated murders committed by those who know the victim are given special attention [36].

Conclusion

The family has experienced quick and comprehensive changes in many facets of social life in recent years. This institution has gone through these changes as a result of a variety of internal and external forces. One of the most important variables impacting family formation is the media, which has played a significant influence in changing the internal relationships among family members. These changes have had both beneficial and bad consequences for the family. Family damage has arisen as a result of the growth of non-bordered, non-government-regulated mass media, and this issue occurs in Iran as well. Culture and values are created through the media. Norms have the potential to guide and educate individuals, particularly children, and teenagers. However, if its plans are sound but lack knowledge and goal-setting, it will result in corruption and diversion. The fast advancement of electronic technology has considerably elevated human quality

and natural processes, resulting in novel behaviors in both the individual and societal arenas. When a family understands its ideals, it creates genuine togetherness. The media is undermining these values and leading families to an uncertain path. Satellites traveling in a predetermined route to destroy societal and family customs have put the family foundation in jeopardy. Under the influence of satellite programs, young people let themselves indulge in any type of conduct, and certain erroneous beliefs are created in them, resulting in behavioral and intellectual harm. Couples, on the other hand, are one of the most important targets of the propaganda message of satellite networks' commercial messages, which seeks to gently influence religious, cultural, social, and economic dimensions, as well as change their lifestyles by encouraging and guiding them to use of luxury, luxury, and non-essential goods. Unfortunately, the results and impacts of this onslaught and propaganda can be seen at all levels of society. Lack of belief adherence, irresponsibility, increased divorce, dissatisfaction of couples with each other even in marital issues, reduction of emotional connection, consumerism, change of cover, and wavering of beliefs... all demonstrate the impact of advertising and programs in this media on society, particularly couples.

Meanwhile, the role of the Internet cannot be overlooked, as it has resulted in improper actions in both parents and children, posing severe threats to that society. Many negative loads and corruptions stem from this detrimental atmosphere, as addressed in this paper. Adolescents and young people exposed to this environment develop an addiction to the Internet and a sense of loneliness. It has also resulted in a high number of divorces, both legal and emotional.

The negative aspects of the media have gone so far as to directly influence individual criminality in society. As can be observed, prostitution, murder, jail, and other forms of crime have become more prevalent in society. Each of these atrocities shatters the family's safe foundation. When the loving family core is threatened in this way, the upbringing of the children, who are the future of our civilization, will be affected, increasing crime, instability, and disorder in the community. Despite its beneficial aspects, mass media poses a severe danger to the family's foundation, and families must exercise extreme caution in their use of the media, recognize its positive aspects, and fully profit from them.

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