Impact Of Media Violence on Children's Behavior: In Reference of Mobile

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Abstract- The pervasive presence of media violence in children's lives, particularly through mobile devices, raises significant concerns regarding its impact on their behavior. This review paper synthesizes current research findings to examine the multifaceted relationship between media violence and children's behavior in the context of mobile technology. Drawing upon empirical studies, theoretical frameworks, and practical insights, the paper explores the psychological, behavioral, and cognitive effects of media violence on children, with a specific focus on its manifestation through mobile devices. It delves into factors influencing the relationship between media violence exposure and children's behavior, including age, individual differences, family environment, and cultural context. Critiques and controversies surrounding research on media violence are also addressed, highlighting methodological limitations, ethical considerations, and theoretical debates. By providing a comprehensive overview of the topic, this review aims to inform policymakers, educators, parents, and researchers about the complex dynamics of media violence and its implications for children's behavior in the digital age.

Keywords: Media violence, Children, Behavior, Mobile devices.

INTRODUCTION

In today's digitally interconnected world, children are exposed to a vast array of media content from an early age, shaping their perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors in profound ways. Among the myriad of content types, media violence has emerged as a contentious issue, captivating the attention of researchers, policymakers, parents, and society at large. Defined as the portrayal of physical, verbal, or psychological aggression in various forms of media, including television, movies, video games, and online platforms, media violence has sparked intense debates regarding its potential impact on children's behavior and well-being. [1]

Understanding the intricate relationship between media violence and children's behavior requires a nuanced exploration that encompasses psychological, social, and cultural dimensions [2]. Children, as active consumers of media, navigate a complex landscape of messages and images that shape their understanding of the world around them. As such, the effects of media violence on children's behavior cannot be reduced to simplistic cause-and-effect relationships but rather must be understood within the broader context of individual differences, developmental trajectories, and socio-cultural influences.

Also, the advent of digital technology has transformed the way children engage with media, blurring the boundaries between virtual and real-world experiences. Mobile devices, in particular, have become ubiquitous tools of communication, entertainment, and learning, providing children with unprecedented access to media content anytime, anywhere. Consequently, understanding the impact of media violence on children's behavior within the context of mobile technology is paramount for addressing the evolving challenges and opportunities of the digital age. [3]

1.1. Definition and Types of Media Violence

Media violence encompasses the portrayal of physical, verbal, or psychological aggression within various forms of media, including but not limited to television, movies, video games, music lyrics, and online platforms. This portrayal can range from explicit scenes of violence to more subtle forms, such as verbal threats or intimidation. Here are some types of media violence: [4]

Physical Violence: This involves the depiction of physical harm or aggression, including fighting, combat, or acts of physical force intended to injure or harm others. Examples include scenes of gun violence, fistfights, or graphic depictions of physical assault.

Verbal Violence: Verbal violence involves the use of aggressive language or threats to intimidate, demean, or provoke others. This can include verbal abuse, hate speech, or threatening language intended to instill fear or exert control over others.

Psychological Violence: Psychological violence refers to the portrayal of emotional or psychological harm inflicted upon others. This can include psychological manipulation, emotional abuse, or the portrayal of characters engaging in coercive or controlling behaviors.

Sexual Violence: This type of violence involves the depiction of sexual acts or behaviors that are non-consensual, coercive, or exploitative in nature. Examples include scenes of sexual assault, rape, or sexual harassment portrayed in media content.

Fantasy Violence: Fantasy violence refers to violence depicted in fictional or fantastical settings, often involving supernatural or unrealistic elements. This can include scenes of magical combat, mythical creatures engaging in battle, or other forms of violence that exist within fictional worlds.

Realistic Violence: Realistic violence portrays acts of aggression or harm in a manner that closely resembles real-world situations and consequences. This can include scenes of street violence, domestic abuse, or war depicted with a high degree of realism and detail.

1.2. Theoretical Frameworks for Analyzing Media Violence

Analyzing media violence requires a theoretical framework that helps understand its effects on individuals and society. Several theoretical perspectives have been developed to study this phenomenon. Here are some prominent ones: [5]

Social Learning Theory: Developed by Albert Bandura, social learning theory posits that individuals learn behavior through observation, imitation, and modeling. According to this theory, exposure to media violence can lead to the acquisition of aggressive behaviors and attitudes by observing and imitating violent characters or situations portrayed in the media.

Catharsis Theory: This theory suggests that exposure to media violence provides a cathartic release of pent-up aggression, thereby reducing the likelihood of engaging in real-life violent behavior. Proponents argue that watching violent content allows individuals to vicariously experience and discharge aggressive impulses in a controlled and non-harmful manner.

Desensitization Theory: Desensitization theory proposes that repeated exposure to media violence can diminish emotional responsiveness and sensitivity to violence, leading individuals to become less empathetic and more accepting of real-life aggression. This process may result in a blunting of emotional reactions to violence and a normalization of aggressive behavior.

Cultivation Theory: Developed by George Gerbner, cultivation theory posits that prolonged exposure to media content shapes individuals' perceptions of social reality. According to this theory, frequent exposure to media violence can contribute to the cultivation of a worldview characterized by fear, mistrust, and a heightened perception of violence in society.

General Aggression Model (GAM): The General Aggression Model integrates various psychological theories to explain the link between media violence exposure and aggressive behavior. It proposes that media violence influences aggression through cognitive, affective, and arousal processes, leading to short-term and long-term changes in individuals' aggressive inclinations and behaviors.

Priming Theory: Priming theory suggests that exposure to media violence can activate aggressive thoughts, feelings, and schemas in individuals' minds, making aggressive behavior more likely in subsequent social interactions. According to this theory, media violence acts as a priming stimulus that increases the accessibility and salience of aggressive thoughts and scripts.

1.3.   Mobile Technology and its Influence on Children

Mobile technology has become an omnipresent force in children's lives, profoundly influencing their behaviors, interactions, and experiences. With the accessibility and portability of smartphones, tablets, and other devices, children can easily access a wide range of media content, from educational apps to social media platforms, at any time and place. These devices offer interactive and immersive experiences, engaging children in dynamic ways through touchscreens, motion sensors, and augmented reality features. Social connectivity is also facilitated through mobile technology, allowing children to communicate and collaborate with peers in digital spaces. While mobile devices provide valuable opportunities for learning, creativity, and socialization, concerns have been raised about their potential negative impact, including excessive screen time, cyberbullying, and distraction from real-world interactions. Effective parental guidance and digital literacy education are essential for promoting safe and responsible use of mobile technology among children, ensuring that they can harness its benefits while navigating its challenges. [6]

1.4.   Impact of Media Violence on Children's Behavior

1.4.1.   Psychological Effects

The psychological effects of media violence on children's behavior have been a subject of extensive research and debate. Exposure to media violence has been linked to various psychological outcomes, including increased aggression, desensitization to violence, and heightened fearfulness. One of the primary concerns is the potential for media violence to desensitize children to real-life violence, leading to a diminished emotional response and a decreased sensitivity to the consequences of aggression. Additionally, repeated exposure to violent media content can contribute to the normalization of aggression, shaping children's attitudes and beliefs about violence as a means of conflict resolution. Furthermore, media violence can evoke feelings of fear and anxiety in children, particularly when they identify with the victims or perceive themselves as potential targets of violence. These psychological effects can have long-lasting implications for children's emotional well-being, social interactions, and cognitive development. It is crucial to recognize the nuanced relationship between media violence exposure and psychological outcomes, taking into account individual differences, developmental factors, and contextual influences. Efforts to mitigate the psychological effects of media violence should focus on promoting media literacy, fostering critical thinking skills, and providing supportive environments that help children navigate media content responsibly and develop healthy coping strategies. By addressing these issues, we can work towards creating a media environment that supports positive psychological outcomes and promotes the well-being of children. [7]

1.4.2.   Behavioral Effects

The behavioral effects of media violence on children have been a topic of significant concern and research. Studies have shown that exposure to media violence can lead to an increase in aggressive behavior among children. This increase in aggression can manifest in various ways, including verbal aggression, physical aggression, and relational aggression. Furthermore, media violence has been associated with desensitization to violence, where children become less sensitive to the consequences of aggressive behavior and more accepting of violence as a means of conflict resolution. Additionally, exposure to media violence can influence children's attitudes and beliefs about violence, shaping their perceptions of its prevalence and acceptability in society. These behavioral effects can have profound implications for children's social interactions, academic achievement, and overall well-being. It is essential to recognize the role of media violence in shaping children's behavior and to implement strategies to mitigate its negative effects. Efforts to address the behavioral effects of media violence should include promoting media literacy, encouraging critical thinking skills, and fostering positive social norms that reject violence as a solution to conflict. Additionally, parental guidance and supervision play a crucial role in helping children navigate media content and develop healthy behavioral patterns. By addressing these issues, we can work towards creating a media environment that supports positive behavioral outcomes and promotes the healthy development of children. [8]

1.4.3.   Cognitive Effects

The cognitive effects of media violence on children's behavior are a subject of ongoing research and debate. Exposure to media violence has been linked to various cognitive outcomes, including changes in attitudes, beliefs, and cognitive processing related to violence. One significant cognitive effect is the cultivation of aggressive cognitive scripts and schemas, where children internalize

patterns of aggressive behavior observed in media content and incorporate them into their cognitive repertoire. This can lead to an increased likelihood of aggressive thoughts and behaviors in response to perceived provocations or conflicts. Moreover, exposure to media violence can distort children's perceptions of reality, leading them to overestimate the prevalence and acceptability of violence in society. Additionally, media violence can influence children's desensitization to violence, resulting in a decreased emotional responsiveness and sensitivity to the consequences of aggression. These cognitive effects can have implications for children's decision-making processes, social interactions, and moral development. It is essential to recognize the complex interplay between media violence exposure and cognitive outcomes and to implement strategies to mitigate its negative effects. Efforts to address the cognitive effects of media violence should include promoting media literacy, encouraging critical thinking skills, and fostering positive social norms that reject violence as a solution to conflict. Additionally, parental guidance and supervision play a crucial role in helping children navigate media content and develop healthy cognitive frameworks. By addressing these issues, we can work towards creating a media environment that supports positive cognitive outcomes and promotes the healthy development of children. [9]

1.5. Factors Influencing the Relationship Between Media Violence and Children's Behavior

The relationship between media violence and children's behavior is influenced by a multitude of factors, each playing a unique role in shaping the dynamics of this complex interaction. Age and developmental stage are critical factors, as children of different ages may interpret and respond to media violence differently based on their cognitive and emotional maturity. Individual differences, such as temperament and personality traits, also contribute to variations in children's susceptibility to the effects of media violence. The family environment, including parental guidance, supervision, and media co-viewing practices, can moderate the impact of media violence by providing contextual cues and setting boundaries. Peer influence further shapes children's attitudes and behaviors related to media violence, as social dynamics within peer groups can reinforce or mitigate the effects of media exposure. Additionally, characteristics of the media content itself, such as its realism and portrayal of consequences, play a crucial role in determining its impact on children's behavior. Cultural and societal context, including cultural attitudes towards violence and gender roles, further contextualize children's exposure to and interpretation of media violence. By understanding and addressing these factors comprehensively, we can develop strategies to mitigate the negative effects of media violence on children's behavior and promote healthy media consumption habits. [10]

1.6. Critiques and Controversies Surrounding Research on Media Violence

Research on media violence and its effects has been the subject of critique and controversy, with debates centering on various methodological, ethical, and theoretical issues. One critique is the reliance on correlational studies, which examine associations between media violence exposure and behavioral outcomes but cannot establish causality. Critics argue that other factors, such as family environment or genetic predispositions, may confound the relationship between media violence and behavior. Additionally, there is debate over the generalizability of findings across different media formats, age groups, and cultural contexts, with some arguing that effects may vary depending on these factors. Ethical concerns have also been raised regarding the use of violent media content in research studies, particularly when involving children or vulnerable populations. Furthermore, there is controversy surrounding the interpretation of findings, with some researchers questioning the significance and magnitude of media violence effects compared to other factors influencing behavior. Despite these critiques, research on media violence continues to evolve, with ongoing efforts to address methodological limitations, expand theoretical frameworks, and explore nuanced interactions between media exposure and behavior. By acknowledging and engaging with these critiques, researchers can advance our understanding of the complex relationship between media violence and its effects on individuals and society. [11]

LITERATURE REVIEWS

For decades, people have worried about the impact of violent and aggressive media on young people. According to studies conducted on the subject, this demographic may be adversely affected by both brief and prolonged exposure to violent or aggressive media. Discussing pertinent studies on the subject and examining numerous elements that may effect the risk of being influenced by this form of media is the objective of this literature review. Media consumption habits, media content, gender, age, psychological traits, social circle, and family and friends are all potential contributors. Also included are potential avenues for further study and different theoretical frameworks for understanding the impact of violent media. [12]

The purpose of this research was to identify any correlations between moms' aggressive conduct and their children's exposure to violent media and video games at the Prince Mansour Hospital in Taif city's pediatric outpatient clinics. At Taif's Prince Mansour Military Hospital (PMMH), researchers conducted a cross-sectional study. The sample for this research was selected using the systematic random selection approach, and there were 341 participants. The tools were divided into three sections: (1) demographic data; (2) TV and gaming viewing history; and (3) a 51-question questionnaire covering a range of behaviors, including aggressiveness, among the youngsters. Statistical analysis of the primary data showed that there were significant variations in aggressiveness according to parental age, sex, level of education, and employment (p-value is 0.035., 0.015, 0.010 and 026. respectively). The findings also showed that playing videogames was significantly associated with a high or very high probability of violence. [13]

Modern life without our cellphones and social media accounts is unimaginable. These technologies and the internet are accessible to children at an earlier age. A new cultural pattern has emerged as a result, altering the social and behavioral landscape as well as people's interactions with one another. Social media has many positive uses, but it also has the potential to negatively impact children. They are influenced on several levels, including behavioral, psychological, and social, by the abundance of online communication tools such as Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, and a myriad of blog formats. There is a wide range of factors, including gender, upbringing, social circle, and life events, that influence how children are impacted by social media. Cyberbullying, online grooming, depression, anxiety, sexting, excessive exposure to unsuitable information, narcissism, and other related issues need close attention from society and policymakers. This article will examine the legal protection

with a focus on ASEAN nations, as well as the good and negative consequences on children, and ways to improve the advantages. [14]

The research set out to determine how exposure to violent media affects the conduct of elementary school students. Meeting Mousa A males and El Shahid Ahmed Goda, two elementary schools in Shebin El Kom, Menoufya governorate, Egypt, were the subjects of this research. The researchers used a multi-stage random sampling technique. There were a total of 320 third and fourth graders at the two institutions. Initially, you will need an interview questionnaire. Anxiety scale for children is the second instrument. The third instrument is a kid hostility scale. The fourth instrument is a scale that measures intense media violence. Of the children surveyed, 52.4% were between the ages of 8 and 10, 53.8% were female, 95.2% had fathers who worked outside the home, 49.3% had mothers who did the same, 58.2% had at least one television in their house, and 79.8% had access to a computer or play station. The degree of violence in the children investigated was significantly correlated with exposure to violent media, namely preferred computer/video games, preferred cinema/computer films, and preferred player/artist. The youngsters surveyed showed a statistically significant correlation between their anxiety levels and exposure to violent media, specifically preferred computer and video games. Aggression, whether verbal or physical, was present in less than 25% of the youngsters. Fewer than 25% of the kids exhibited aggressive behavior. Anxiety levels ranging from mild to severe were indicated by almost 50% of the youngsters in the study. Additionally, the investigated children's aggressive degree was significantly correlated with their socio-demographic features, including their sex, school grade, amount per diem, and the presence or absence of television in their household. In addition, the socio-demographic features of the children analyzed, including their anxiety level, mother's employment status, and the number of televisions in their homes, were shown to be statistically related. Ongoing evaluation of children need more research investigations, preferably with large samples to allow for generalization of outcomes. [15]

More and more, people are starting to recognize how violent media affects society and individuals. Television, movies, music, and video games all include violent scenes that may have a negative impact on young people's mental health, according to a growing body of study. Specifically, this article will discuss how exposure to violent media might desensitize young people to violence, increase their aggressive tendencies, and decrease their prosocial tendencies. Experts seem to have agreed on the reality of violent media's effect on youngsters, according to the results. Evidence from controlled experiments shows that both children and adults are more likely to act aggressively, less likely to be helpful to others, and more likely to become desensitized to violent media violence in the near term. There is strong evidence from longitudinal experimental research showing children who are exposed to violent content in electronic media are more likely to have aggressive and violent tendencies as adults. [16]

Violence in the media may have both short- and long-term consequences. Viewers' lack of inhibition after seeing violent media might make them act aggressively. Exposure to violent media has harder-to-quantify long-term consequences than short-term ones. Viewers' aggressiveness is heightened when they are exposed to violent media depictions. When it comes to the impact of media, young people are the most susceptible demographic. Victimization is more common among young people because they are more susceptible to issues of identity, independence, and physical and emotional development. We are all too aware of the ways in which the media affects our society, societal institutions, interpersonal relationships, and more. The young of India are being impacted by the market-oriented, media-driven cultural values of the West. This research sets out to do just that, by analyzing the effects of media violence on the actions of young people in a few Indian cities. [17]

These days, our kids can't imagine life without their televisions, movies, video games, smartphones, and computer networks. Both good and bad influences from the media on children's mental, social, and behavioral development have been shown to be substantial. We chose to survey the existing research on the impacts of media on children's health in Western nations and India because of the growing number of new media that children are exposed to. Violence, obesity, cigarette and alcohol usage, and dangerous sexual practices are some of the many ways in which the media negatively impacts children's health. At the same time, there may be some beneficial impacts of media on children's health. Finding strategies to maximize the media's good contributions while limiting their negative ones is crucial if we want them to play an optimal role in our society. The media may have both beneficial and harmful effects, and we must learn to mitigate the former. [18]

The media has both good and bad effects on kids' actions. Media violence is the primary concern about the influence of the media on children. The majority of psychological studies on media violence have focused on the effects of violent media on children, namely on television and in video games. These studies have shown that both short-term and long-term exposure to violent media causes aggressive behavior. Many parents worry that their children may become too materialistic and have an unhealthy obsession with commercial things. They often see children's ads as a cause of argument between themselves and their children. The media has a significant impact on children's social development and on the inculcation of cultural values and ideas. Kids' education and their understanding of global concerns are both impacted by the media. The media's positive effects on children may be amplified via parental mediation, while the negative effects can be mitigated. [19]

Worryingly, children's exposure to violent media may have a negative impact on their emotional well-being, social isolation, and other aspects of their healthy development. When kids see violent actions, like kicking, modeled in the media, they are more prone to mimic such actions when they see them in real life. Abuse in the media has real-world consequences for public health, including an increase in aggression and violence. Additionally, we have recently discovered that children's frequent exposure to violent media, such as violent video games, has a profoundly detrimental impact on their behavior. Multiple pieces of empirical evidence suggest that being exposed to aggressive content in media such as television, movies, video games, mobile phones, and the internet increases the probability that an audience member may engage in violent behavior, similar to how being raised in a violent environment increases the likelihood of violent behavior. In this research, we take a dispassionate look at the empirical evidence and try to figure out why being around aggressive people might have negative effects on people's health, both immediately and over time. Finally, the magnitude of the "media violence effect" is compared to other prominent societal dangers in order to assess the seriousness of the danger. [20]

Modern youth, more so than previous generations, rely heavily on electronic devices. Much research on the effects of technology on children's cognitive, emotional, and physical development, as well as their brains, has resulted from this upsurge in use. Much of the study in these areas, particularly that which involves the brain, is still in its early stages. In addition, it often reveals weak associations between kids' computer usage and outcomes; it's not apparent whether tech is the source of these outcomes, and kids' real-life consequences are cast into doubt by such tiny impact sizes. Regardless of these concerns, policymakers in many nations have established rules for children's technology usage, which tend to be restriction-oriented. This document reviews the research on the impact of technology on children's cognitive, social-emotional, physical, and brain development, and it summarizes the findings. In order to understand the effects of technology on children and to help design effective recommendations based on evidence, it also shows where higher-quality research is required. [21]

CONCLUSION

The review paper accentuates the intricate relationship between media violence and children's behavior, with a specific emphasis on the influence of mobile technology. Through an examination of empirical evidence, theoretical frameworks, and practical insights, several key findings emerge. First, media violence exposure, particularly through mobile devices, has significant psychological, behavioral, and cognitive effects on children. These effects include increased aggression, desensitization to violence, and distorted perceptions of reality. Second, the relationship between media violence and children's behavior is influenced by a myriad of factors, including age, individual differences, family environment, and cultural context. Third, critiques and controversies surrounding research on media violence highlight methodological limitations, ethical considerations, and theoretical debates. Despite these challenges, the review underscores the importance of addressing the impact of media violence on children's behavior in the digital age. It calls for collaborative efforts among policymakers, educators, parents, and researchers to develop strategies that promote responsible media use, foster critical media literacy skills, and create a supportive environment that prioritizes children's well-being in an increasingly mediated world. By acknowledging the complexities of this issue and working towards comprehensive solutions, we can strive to create a healthier and more nurturing media environment for children.

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