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# THE IMPACT OF THE MEDIA IN RELATION TO ADOLESCENTS' JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

MUFARAJ ALI AL-KARBI



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DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION (MASTER BY RESAERCH)

FACULTY OF HUMEN DEVELOPMENT  
SULTAN IDRIS EDUCATION UNIVERSITY

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigates the impact of the media on juvenile delinquency in the care of Abu Dhabi and Fujairah - United Arab Emirates. It studies the behaviours of adolescents in watching the media and its influence on them. It also measures the readiness of the delinquents to accept the awareness of media as a means of adjustment and a proactive means to prevent delinquency. In order to answer the research questions and measure the results, a quantitative approach was used for this study through a survey. The study sample constitutes of delinquent juveniles, as well as middle and high school students as a control sample (sample of normal adolescents) as a means to analyse the responses. The questionnaire was distributed to 46 delinquent juveniles (39 males and 7 females) cared for by Abu Dhabi and Fujairah care homes. It was also distributed to 120 middle and secondary school students (65 males and 55 females) in Abu Dhabi and Fujairah. Descriptive statistics and Chi-square test were used for data analysis. The findings showed that there is no relationship between adolescents imitating violent content in media and the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency as (58.69%) of the delinquents and (60%) of normal adolescent did not imitate the moves of actors in detective films. The results also showed that there is a positive relationship between the probability of juvenile delinquency and adolescents' watching media materials for more than four hours per day (Chi-square= 15.38, Df=2, P=0.01). As a conclusion, the more time adolescents spend on media materials may lead to juvenile delinquency. The study implicates the need for intensifying the media materials' awareness directed to adolescents, especially on television and Friday sermons, as they have a significant impact on the adolescents' personalities and receive wide acceptance among them.





## **KESAN MEDIA TERHADAP KECEMERLANGAN JUVENILE DI PUSAT PENJAGAAN DI ABU DHABI DAN FUJAIRAH - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

### **ABSTRAK**

Kajian ini menyiasat impak media mengenai kenakalan remaja di penjagaan Abu Dhabi dan Fujairah - Emiriah Arab Bersatu. Ia mengkaji tingkah laku remaja dalam menonton media dan pengaruhnya terhadap mereka. Ia juga mengukur kesediaan orang yang tertindas untuk menerima kesedaran media sebagai cara penyesuaian dan cara yang proaktif untuk mengelakkan kenakalan. Untuk menjawab soalan penyelidikan dan mengukur hasil, pendekatan kuantitatif digunakan untuk kajian ini melalui tinjauan. Sampel kajian terdiri daripada juvana yang bermasalah, serta pelajar sekolah menengah dan sekolah menengah sebagai sampel kawalan (sampel remaja normal) sebagai alat untuk menganalisis tanggapan. Soal selidik itu telah diagihkan kepada 46 remaja remaja (39 lelaki dan 7 wanita) yang diasuh oleh rumah jagaan Abu Dhabi dan Fujairah. Ia juga diedarkan kepada 120 pelajar sekolah menengah dan menengah (65 lelaki dan 55 perempuan) di Abu Dhabi dan Fujairah. Statistik deskriptif dan ujian Chi-square digunakan untuk analisis data. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahawa tidak terdapat hubungan antara remaja yang meniru kandungan ganas dalam media dan fenomena kenakalan remaja sebagai (58.69%) dari delinkuen dan (60%) remaja normal tidak meniru gerakan pelakon dalam filem-filem detektif. Hasil kajian menunjukkan terdapat hubungan positif di antara kebarangkalian remaja kenakalan remaja dan menonton bahan media lebih daripada empat jam sehari ( $\text{Chi-square} = 15.38$ ,  $\text{Df} = 2$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ). Sebagai kesimpulan, lebih banyak masa remaja yang menghabiskan bahan media boleh menyebabkan kenakalan remaja. Kajian ini membabitkan keperluan untuk meningkatkan kesedaran bahan media kepada remaja, terutamanya di televisyen dan khutbah Jumaat, kerana mereka mempunyai kesan yang signifikan terhadap keperibadian remaja dan menerima penerimaan luas di kalangan mereka.



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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION



#### 1.1 Introduction

Children are the basis of society and the cornerstone of nations. They are the hope of the nation to establish a civilisation. The future is built through the youth. It cannot be imagined that a nation will rise without its people and the sweat of its youth. In order for these children to become a responsible generation, it is imperative for the children to be saved, cared for and protected from harm. A country should dedicate all its efforts and capabilities to care for them and ensure they are raised and educated properly. One of the most important threats to these adolescents, the community and social peace is juvenile delinquency, which is a malignant phenomenon that threatens the nation and violates its rules and principles. It is vital to investigate in order to identify and determine its causes in order to be able to confront and prevent its spread





throughout society. Its dangers are evident as it corrupts teenagers and transforms them into a destructive force thereby rendering a youth harmful more than beneficial.

Media has a significant impact on the lives of the young and old people such as on human behaviour, clothing, appearance and personality traits. Many teenagers imitate famous artists, football players in their clothes and haircuts, and even the way they talk. This is due to the strong influence of these celebrities. Some girls acquire jewellery and clothes with colours decorated with a pattern of clothing they see in Hindi and Turkish films, and so on. Such behaviour supports that the media has a significant, effective and direct influence on in the lives of individuals, their behaviour, clothing and way of life.



The theory of cultural implantation suggests that television has become a family member. Children start associating with it at an early age. Television plays a cultural role as it provides viewers with religious, historical, geographic and other information, and this is one of the benefits and advantages of this device (Abdel Hamid, 2000). However, television has undeniable negatives. Some studies have shown that many children programmes, especially cartoons, are horribly violent (Huesmann, 2007). For example, violence accounts for 42% of ‘Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles’, 40% of ‘Tom & Jerry’ and 24% of ‘Grindizer’. The forms of violence used by cartoon characters varied: 35% quarrels, 33% pranks, 14% battles, 5% torture, and 5% threat. Children tend to imitate what they watch (81% of males and 35% of females). The fact that most research on the impact of media violence on aggressive behaviour has focused on violence in fictional television and film and videogames is





not surprising given the prominence of violent content in these media and the prominence of these media in children's lives (Anderson & Bushman, 2001).

## 1.2 Study Rationale

The topic of the study was chosen in order to identify the extent of the impact of exposure to different media in juvenile delinquency, and map the danger of this phenomenon on society was emphasised. The focus is on the role of the media in this phenomenon as an independent variable, because the media is one of the most important factors affecting the values and behaviours of adolescents.



## 1.3 Problem Statement

Psychologists point out that the child is not born of one nature, that the characteristics of his behaviour and trends are not born with him, but he acquires them from the social and physical environment that he becomes part of by birth. In addition, psychologists emphasise that children and adolescents are more affected by TV programmes than adults (Allawi, 2010).

Since the early 1960s, the results of research exposure to violence in television, movies, videogames, cell phones, and on the internet certainly increases the risk of violent behaviour on the viewer's part just as growing up in an environment filled with real violence that increases the risk of them behaving violently (Huesmann,





2007). The meta-analytic review of the literature about videogames revealed that violent videogames increase aggressive behaviour in children and young adults (Anderson & Bushman, 2001). Moreover, parallel effects have been observed among older adolescents and young adults. Experiments have demonstrated that exposing people, especially children and youth, to violent behaviour on film and TV increases the likelihood that they will behave aggressively immediately afterwards. According to a typical experiment, those who watch the violent clips tend to behave more aggressively than do those who view nonviolent clips (Huesmann & Taylor, 2006).

Media is everywhere from the devices of television, radio, computer and to internet mobile phones, videogames, newspapers and magazines, primarily smartphones that they carry with them everywhere; at home, school, street, transportation and markets. One of the most important features of this age is the rapid development of media and communication. This is sufficient for the enormous progress achieved by satellite broadcasting and the internet where anyone can watch hundreds of channels broadcasting from the East and West and surf many websites. All this has become available for the entire family even teenagers and children, and becomes easier in use year after year (Brady, 2017). There is growing evidence, Anderson said, that high exposure to fast-paced violent games can lead to changes in brain function when processing violent images, including dampening of emotional responses to violence and decreases in certain types of executive control (Kaplan, 2012).

The delinquency of young people is one of the most pressing contemporary social problems, not only in developed countries but also in developing countries such as the UAE. It has a negative impact on victims, society, adolescents, and their





families (Al-Ali, 2013). In view of the keenness of the United Arab Emirates to provide social, health and psychological care for displaced and delinquent juveniles, to assist them and rehabilitate them, from the sense of social responsibility, the researcher seeks to contribute to this effort.

According to Al-Ali (2013), a review of existing Arabic studies examining juvenile delinquency indicates that: (a) in the majority of Arabic countries, there has been an increase in juvenile delinquency; (b) most studies have paid attention to treatment rather than prevention; (c) most previous studies have been based on methods of document analysis; and (d) many researchers have suggested the importance of conducting further research in the field of juvenile delinquency prevention. Unfortunately, in the UAE and many other developing countries, this issue has not been given significant attention until recently (Al-Ali, 2013).

The study problem concentrates on the negative impact of media on juvenile delinquency, by exposing adolescents to scenes of violence, hatred and extremism. This is due to the fact that the various media are full of these scenes, which lead to the growing phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and the bad and ugly examples of people we see in the street and work who are obviously influenced by media. It cultivates their tendency to aggression, hatred and violence and removed the feelings of mercy and compassion from their hearts. Also, media exposes them to violence and evil deeds, especially with the absence of the supervisory role of the family as many families are preoccupied with other affairs and fail to check what their children are watching on different media and how much time they spend on them.





Therefore, it is important to examine the relationship between the media and juvenile delinquency in the UAE, Abu Dhabi, where adolescents are affected significantly by the scenes of violence and hatred they watch in television films, computer, internet, and videogames.

#### 1.4 Research Questions

**RQ1:** Are there differences in the habits of using media materials between adolescents and delinquents?

**RQ2:** Are there differences between normal adolescents and delinquents in regard to preferred media to watch?

**RQ3:** Is there a significant relationship between parental control of children's media watching and delinquency?

**RQ4:** Is there a significant relationship between juvenile delinquency and responding to the media as a tool of awareness?

**RQ5:** What is the role of media in providing awareness to adolescents regarding juvenile delinquency?

#### 1.5 Importance of Research

The importance of this study can be divided into the theoretical and practical importance.





### **1.5.1 Theoretical Importance**

There is a lack of research on the relationship between media viewing and between crime and delinquency among juveniles. To address this issue requires the formation of a comprehensive vision of juvenile delinquency, its causes and the ways the country deals with such issues. This will allow us to know the negative effects of various media on adolescents and the aspects of these effects of media on juvenile delinquents.

### **1.5.2 Practical Importance**

Conducting field studies and questionnaires for adolescents and juvenile delinquents will help identify their media orientations and the impact of the content of the media materials they see on their behaviour, thinking and lifestyle. The study concludes with solutions and suggestions that help reduce the growing phenomenon and help guide and rehabilitate juvenile delinquents. It will help reduce the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency in the United Arab Emirates leads to increasing the stability of society and the preservation of children from delinquency, because they are the underlying brick and the cornerstone of the nation, which leads to the elevation of the homeland and to complete the bright image that Allah has blessed the UAE with.

## **1.6 Objectives of the Study**

This study seeks to achieve the following objectives:





- To identify the relationship between media and delinquency and the limits of the impact of media following in adolescents' delinquency and the formation of their attitudes and behaviours.
- To identify the relationship between the scenes presented by the various media and the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency through the tendency of adolescents to imitate violence and crimes they see.
- Studying the negative effects of the media and its inclusion of hatred, violence and aggression scenes, which lead to the growing problem of juvenile delinquency.
- Identify the behaviours of adolescents in watching the media and how they are affected by it.
- Recognise the readiness of the delinquents to accept the awareness of media as guidance and proactive means to prevent delinquency.
- To highlight the positive role that the media should play in reducing the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency and eliminating its causes, but also to rehabilitate the affected adolescents with these negative effects.
- Provide solutions and suggestions that help to reduce juvenile delinquency and prevent juveniles from being delinquent.

### 1.7 Concepts and Terminologies

The present study includes a set of terms and concepts that should be explained and illustrated in some detail, so that the picture and the meaning are complete. It is worth mentioning here the study involves several concepts, chief among which are detailed below:





### 1.7.1 Delinquency

Researchers have not agreed on a definition to the concept of delinquency that explains all its aspects, elements and components. However, there is a set of definitions that clarify the meaning of the delinquency concept. The most important definitions of delinquency are:

- The Dictionary of Psychology defines delinquency as “behaviour that does not conform to the norms of the group”.
- Social psychology defines it as “non-adaptation and reflects the conflict between the individual and society”.
- Sociology considers delinquency to be: “a phenomenon arising from the pressures and conflicts of each society”.
- The law view of the concept of delinquency was: “delinquency is a violation of a social custom that is legally sanctioned.”

We note here that the common denominator between these definitions is that delinquency is a negative behaviour and a violation in dealing with society. The first and fourth definitions show that delinquency is contrary to societal norms, whereas the second and third definitions focus on delinquency in terms of the reasons leading to it. Social conflicts have a role to play in its existence, and juvenile delinquents become delinquent because of the social pressures they are exposed to. The legal definition emphasises that the measure of delinquency is achieved by an act of infringement which requires legal punishment. From a legal viewpoint, what distinguish delinquency is the existence of a legal text enforced to punish the





infringer, because it excludes - according to the definition - infringements that are not mentioned in legal penalty texts from the concept of delinquency.

### 1.7.2 Juvenile

Juvenile or “Hadath” in the Arabic language is young in age or a new born baby. “Hadeeth As-sin” means young, and the female is called “Hadathah”. A group of juveniles is “Ahdath” which is derived from “Hadatha” which means modernity. It is the opposite of “Qidam” which means old. Scholars differ in their definition depending on their differences in determining the age of discrimination, and the stage of achieving maturity (Al-Usra & Munira, 1975).



### THE JUVENILE IN ISLAMIC LAW

The juvenile in Islamic law refer to youth who has not reached puberty. A synonym of the term juvenile in Islam is the word child, young lad and boy. This is based on Quranic verses, the prophetic hadiths, and the linguistic indications. The jurists and scholars of law regard these words as having synonymous meanings. They agreed that juvenile means a young person who has not matured, and upon maturity the person is no longer a juvenile.

### THE JUVENILE IN PSYCHO-SOCIOLOGY

Psycho-sociologists refuse to define a specific age at which each stage of modernity ends. They mark the degree of social and psychological maturity according to each individual's abilities, social circumstances and degree of mental development in such a





way as to enable him to interact positively with his society with understanding of the foundations on which the nature of relations between individuals and the legitimate fluid available to him to satisfy his needs and meet his wishes without compromising the freedom, security and stability of others.

However, experts agree that the individual since birth is going through different stages that are difficult to separate from their intertwining and overlapping. They have tried to bring the social psychology division of the body closer to the legal division by dividing the age of modernity into three stages: the stage of self-focus, the stage of focusing on others, the stage of social and psychological maturity, But the stages overlap as the gradation and transition from one stage to another is gradual, not sudden (Zahrani, 1981).



## **THE JUVENILE IN LAW**

The law defines modernity as the period of infancy, which begins with the age of discrimination in which there is no criminal responsibility until reaching the age prescribed by the law for maturity, in which the juvenile is assumed to be responsible. The determination of the age of juvenile differs in some countries, such as Britain (UK), set the age of criminal responsibility at first for eight years and then lifted it to 10 years. When the juvenile commits acts of defiance between the ages of 14 and 17, he is considered to be within the delinquent category and is prosecute in special juvenile courts (Al-Sa'ati, 1983).





In the United Arab Emirates, according to the law of juveniles and delinquents, a juvenile is the person who did not exceed the age of 18 at the time of the act being committed or in a situation of displacement. Article '7' states that "If an accused who has completed the seventh year and has not attained the age of 16 years committed an offence punishable by the Penal Code or any other law, the judge shall decide to take the measures that he deems fit". Article '8' states that, "If a juvenile who has completed 16 years of age commits an offence punishable under the Penal Code or any other law, the judge may decide to take whatever measures mentioned in the text and he deems necessary in this law instead of the prescribed penalties." The measures are, for example, reprimand, delivery to the parent or guardian, or placement in a therapeutic shelter or rehabilitation institute as the case may be, or expulsion from the country to non-citizens. Article '9' states that the juvenile shall not be sentenced to death, imprisonment or imposed financial penalties. The difference in determining the law for the age of juvenile is often due to natural, social and cultural factors. These include differences in the extent of growth and physical attainment of puberty between parties, depending on the natural environment (Yassin, 1981).

### **1.7.3 Media**

#### **Media in Language**

Linguistically, media means reporting, informing, conveying information to a person and confirming his or her knowledge of it (Pandey & Singh, 2017).



**Media Conceptually (Idiomatic Meaning):**

Media is a means by which organisations disseminate news and deliver information to individuals. These organisations could be for-profit or non-profit, public or private, formal or informal. Media uses various techniques to present different content to the public such as entertainment, information, news and other matters of interest to the individual. The spread of media has increased in recent times with the emergence of the TV revolution, and the delivery of content via increasingly innovative means (Abel Lamidi & Gana, 2014).

**1.8 Study Limitations**

The determinants of the study are the set of frames that are beyond the scope of the research in which we are studying and it is divided into:

**1.8.1 Time Limitation:** The time domain for this field study took about 5 months, from 1/5/2017 to 2/10/2017

**1.8.2 Spatial Limitation:** This area determines the geographical scope of the study. In our study, the geographical area is Abu Dhabi and Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates.

