

## Violence and children

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1991

Hye, G. N. (1991). Violence and children. In AMIC ICC Seminar on Children and Television : Cipanas, September 11-13, 1991. Singapore: Asian Mass Communication Research & Information Centre.

<https://hdl.handle.net/10356/93248>

**Violence And Children**

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## VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN ON TELEVISION

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### PREFACE

The development and influence of broadcast media in the modern society are surprising. Especially the appearance and diffusion of T.V. medium have made watching T.V. a part of our living and its influence on policy, economy, society and culture is great. Among those, the effect of T.V. on children and adolescents who are premature in cognition, personality and value judgement, and are not able to distinguish reality from fantasy is bringing forth many problems.

Following 1970s when Korea has been in the throes of industrialization, the media diffused in our country has increased in geometrical number. With the number of T.V. propagated throughout the country increasing up to more than 8 million, and consequently, all the country is entered under the sphere of mass media without a hitch.

### CONTENT

The colorcast and public broadcast system in Korea were built in 1980s. After introduction of public broadcast system the sensible characteristics on both T.V. programs of KBS and MBC are that the programs of sports, recreation and show etc increased relatively, comparing with the decrease of liberal education programs, which is basically beyond the ideology of public broadcast system. One of the structural characteristics of mass culture in capitalistic society is that mass culture could be transformed into profit-pursuing commercial culture catering for commercialism. That is, our culture of T.V. produces mixed programs of epicureanism and commercialism rather than education-oriented programs. Even programs for adolescents as well as adults are growing to be epicurean and irritating, furthermore scenes of violence appeared on TV frequently.

With the programs of violence, action, crime etc increasing, some insisted that the scenes and stories of which influence on the emotions of children and also adolescents, which causes adolescents to be more aggressive and violent. That is, the scenes of violence on TV influence on children in that way. There are many cases of juvenile delinquencies imitating actually scenes of violence on TV. In case of sixteen-year old boy with gloves on when arrested for breaking into basement of somebody's house, he knew from watching TV programs of criminal investigation that he had to put gloves on not to leave fingerprint of his own. This case indicates that TV violence could influence immediately on children and the repeated showing of violence might be a school for teaching children and adolescents crimes.

But some insist that violence description on TV do not affect anyone in a wholesale manner, but only the children and adolescents who are not entirely adapted themselves to the society with the limited effect. Meanwhile according to their assertion the process of vicarious identification dissolve the destructive and aggressive instinct of the children in everyday life.

The programs for children in Korea could be largely divided into two sides, the first one is the drama type such as caricatures, films, and the second one is the recreation and education type such as games, quizzes, songs and information transmission. But the most popular program for children is the caricature, not only because its content is easier to understand and the players' characters are well described as the symbols of virtue and vice, which help their mental coincidence between players and children, but also because the development of incidents is stereotyped to predict easily the end. ✓

If we analyze the contents of korean caricatures on TV, majority are science and police fiction in which the players are defined as animals, extraterrestrials and robots. Even if the caricature has the tendency to be fantastic and light in the forms of recreation, the rate of violence scene is 3 times higher, besides the children (under 10 years old) cannot distinguish between imagined players and real men. Accordingly the argument against the violence caricature on TV become more persistent. It is real that in Korea the time of watching TV for children today by reasons of limited TV sets and channels is less than others but by introduction of CATV, increase of channel number, and large diffusion of TV sets, the watching time can be increased, in consequence the violence tendency can be reduced to a visible phenomenon.



## CONCLUSION

There are two conflicting standpoints of being harmful or harmless about the influence by the TV violence on children. But a lot of reports researched by institutions abroad have proved the negative aspect of TV violence, especially emotional, cognitive, behavioral etc.

Being considered the level of understanding of children who are lack of critical judgement and understanding of things, it is not persuasive to contend that TV as a another area of surroundings save home does not influence children. Therefore, it is necessary to make the positive effect maximized and the negative effect minimized if you premise that TV influences children in a positive or negative way. These efforts should be made by the chief executive and producers of the TV broadcast systems, social organizations and also parents of each home.

The control by parents of watching TV is considered to bring positive result and according to reports surveyed by research institutions, they actually shows that children interacting their parents could receive, memorize, and apply instructive subjects given by TV programs much better and when it comes to learning programs being watched and discussed along with their parents, the effect of learning programs proved to be great.

Eventually, to protect children from TV violence, first thing being required is that the men in charge of TV medium should become conscious of the effect of TV violence. Secondly, efforts to purify social environment should be made from the bottom of social recognition in common. Last of all, the right and correct advices and guidance of parents at home should be accompanied.