

MEDIATIZED VIOLENCE AND ITS INFLUENCE ON YOUNG PEOPLE

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Abstract: *Aggressive behavior is one of the most difficult social behaviors to define. The meaning of this concept depends on the theoretical perspective adopted. What is considered to be aggressive depends on the social and cultural standards of the perceptor. In some cultures violence is natural, even necessary. Explanations of aggressive behavior are part of two major classes: either biological or social. In the present study, the social factors of aggression are a matter of priority, in the sense that this behavior is learned. However, biological theories can not be ignored. In fact, violence is a reaction that concerns rather the body than the psychic. In some cultures, social norms repress any form of aggression. Therefore, the impulse is repressed until it breaks out violently and very badly. Aggressiveness is adaptive because it helps the individual to live at least until he can procreate.*

The research aims to identify the extent to which the effects of television violence (such as desensitization, catharsis effect, disinhibition or imitation) manifest themselves in the behavior that adolescents adopt within Romanian society.

Keywords: *aggressive behavior, desensitization, catharsis effect, disinhibition, pulsation, affectivity.*

INTRODUCTION

Aggressive behavior, aggression is one of the social behaviors extremely difficult to define. The meaning given by researchers depends on the theoretical perspective adopted. What is considered to be aggressive depends on the social and cultural standards of the perceptor. In some cultures violence is natural, even necessary.

There are a number of definitions:

- A behavior that causes injury to a person or the destruction of one's good;
- A behavior carried out with the intent of harming another of the same species;
- A behavior that is intended to harm or injure another person, who is motivated to escape from such treatment;
- A behavior that involves harming others.

1. SOCIAL AND BIO-SOCIAL EXPLANATION OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR

Social psychologists do not cherish biological theories too much, preferring theories that emphasize the learning process and certain factors in the social context related to aggression.

Even if the idea of the instinct is rejected, there are researchers who accept that aggression should be regarded as a learned or inborn tendency, the manifestation of which is triggered by specific social circumstances. This is why they are called bio-social theories.

Explanations of aggressive behavior are part of two major classes: either biological or social. In the present study, the social factors of aggression are a matter of priority, in the sense that this behavior is learned. However, biological theories can not be ignored. In fact, violence is a reaction that concerns more the body than the psychic.

Aggressiveness is considered to be an innate tendency for action. Thus, aggression is an instinct, a pattern dominated by genetically controlled responses. The aggressive instinct is based on vital functions such as protecting the territory against invasions, defending offspring, and sexual competition in which the most powerful copies are selected for reproduction.

In some cultures, social norms repress any form of aggression. Therefore, the impulse is repressed until it breaks out violently and very badly. Aggressiveness is adaptive because it helps the individual to live at least until he can procreate.

Generally, social scientists reject the explanations of aggression based solely on the instinct, arguing that the instinct depends on an unknown energy that can not be measured, and that they are based on a circular logic, proposing empirically undemanding causal connections.

2. RESEARCH ON THE INFLUENCE OF MEDIATIZED VIOLENCE ON ADOLESCENTS' BEHAVIOR

2.1. Motivation of choosing the theme

Lately, if we open the TV, we only see people who are arguing on the streets or news about robberies, conjugal murders or suicides, and those who should represent us in a civilized and diplomatic manner act despicably insulting and aggressing verbally or physically Other people in televised talk shows. The question we are trying to find an answer is: To what extent do these TV images influence adolescent behavior nowadays? Sometimes news of violent acts committed by minors that appear to be detached from action films, minors who are basically inspired by what they see on TV and reproduce violent images in their daily lives, family, street or school, and we ask Whether in the middle is coincidence or imitation.

We will try to find out to what extent the effects of television violence (such as desensitization, catharsis effect, disinhibition or imitation) manifest itself in the behavior that adolescents adopt within Romanian society.

We also think that adolescents prefer TV or computer when they want to relax or when they are looking for information about new things, to the detriment of books, the latter using them only for school. Pretty few children read about themselves and are passionate about books, most of them make it compulsory for school, preferring to document most of the time on the internet.

2.2. Lot of subjects

The universe of this research is delimited by adolescents aged 12 to 16, both female and male. Subjects are selected from both rural and urban areas, coming from families with a stable financial situation and being institutionalized in a form of pre-university education. The selection was random, without being based on certain sampling rules, focusing more on the knowledge in our social circle.

2.3. Research objectives

Manifestations of human aggression are extremely diverse and at different levels: pulsational, affective, attitudinal, behavioral.

The notion of aggressiveness includes the elements that designate aggressive behavior, but also the aggressive act involvement in social life. In this context, it can be said that the media do not act directly only on individuals, but it has effects on the culture, the volume of knowledge, values and norms of a society. The media puts into circulation a set of images, ideas and ratings that audience members call when they build their own line of behavior.

2.4. The purpose of the research

This research aims to study how viewing violent programs can influence the behavior of young people from different social and cultural backgrounds.

2.5. Research hypotheses

1) The more adolescents watch violent programs, the more likely they are to show the effects of television violence (desensitization, catharsis, disinhibition, or imitation).

2) Boys have a tendency to pursue violent programs to a greater extent than girls, so the more they are more likely to be aggressive.

3) Adolescents choose behavioral patterns and cultural models from television stars, such as sports, music, cinema, journalism, etc.

4) In recent years, adolescents' preoccupation with reading, as a recreational activity has diminished in favor of television, computer, video games, etc.

2.6 Methodology of research

In the study on the effects of television violence among adolescents, we chose as the type of survey an individual interview interview, coordinated by an interviewer.

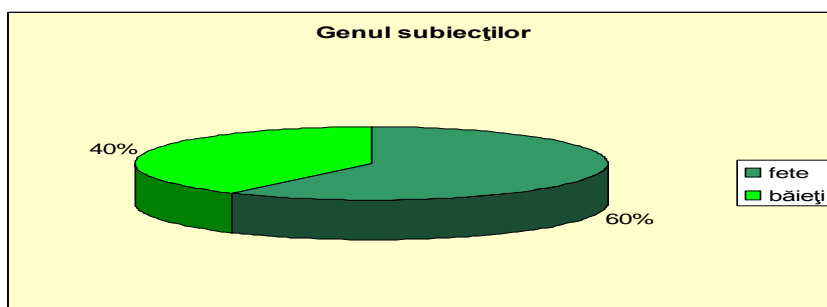
Septimiu Chelcea defines the research interview as a "technique for obtaining, through questions and answers, the verbal information from individuals and human groups in order to verify the hypotheses or for the scientific description of the sociomedical phenomena."

The interview has a number of advantages, including: flexibility, refers to the possibility of obtaining specific answers to each question; Ensuring the control over the succession of questions; Collecting spontaneous answers, providing personal answers or answering all questions.

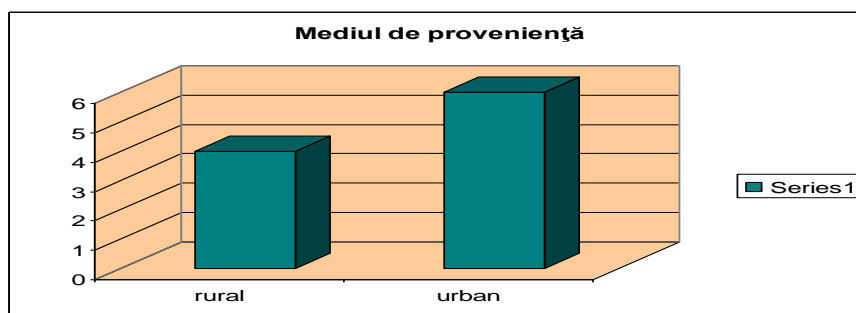
3. RESEARCH RESULTS

The purpose of the research was to observe the way in which the violence of the television violence among adolescents is manifested and to measure the proportion of violent programs in their TV viewing. The interview guide used was structured, the questions being grouped by hypothesis, so the answers obtained help to validate the hypothesis.

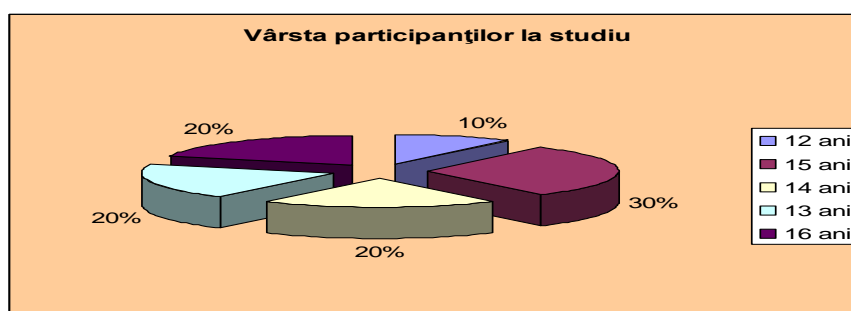
The interview was applied to 10 people, 6 girls and 4 boys coming from both urban and rural areas. Adolescents are part of the 12- to 16-year-old age group and are on average about 2-3 hours a day on television both during the week and on weekends, some of them reaching up to over four hours on day.



Grafic nr. 1 The genre of the subjects



Grafic nr. 2 Environments of origin of subjects



Grafic nr.3 The age of study participants

Choosing patterns of behavior and cultural models

For the first question (see Annex 1), most respondents consider media functions as information and entertainment, some of whom believe that the media also has the function of manipulating the population. Questions number 2 (Do you have a favorite star, a public person you admire? Why?) And number 3 (Regarding your character traits, think of a person in the field with whom you think you could Similarly.) Were formulated to support the hypothesis: "Adolescents choose behavioral patterns and cultural models among television stars in fields such as sports, music, cinema, journalism, etc."

From the teen's answers we noticed the following: Some of them, both boys and girls, regardless of their background, responded that they did not have favorite stars and did not resemble one because they did not know them well enough.

It can be noticed that the people adolescents admire or whose personality they find are the kind of people who get substantial income without a very advanced education (footballers) or who have become famous for their personal life rather than professional activity.

Regarding the relationship with parents (question number 4), they generally have a good relationship, primarily based on communication, especially for girls who have said, for the most part, that they are talking a lot about mothers in particular. In the case of boys, the relationship relies more on understanding, and communication is in some cases low.

Preoccupation of teenagers for reading

The set of questions formulated to support the hypothesis "In recent years, teenagers' preoccupation with reading, as a recreational activity has diminished in favor of television, computer, video games, etc.", has the role of pointing out where the reading is Book among adolescent preferences. In question 5 (How do you feel comfortable relaxing on a weekend after a hard week of school?), Urban respondents, both girls and boys, most often choose as a way of relaxing the internet, going out with friends, listening to music. Watching TV is a secondary option to call in the evening especially when they return home. Only two people, female, said they sometimes get used to reading the weekend to relax. Compared to these, rural respondents, both girls and boys, responded in greater numbers to the weekends than watching television, watching movies or staying at the computer. And they get used to going out with friends or walking, but reading is not found among their recreational activities.

The bottom line here is that girls generally read more than boys and urban adolescents tend to read more than those in rural areas. Of course, here too, it is important to keep in mind the educational unit they are attending, especially those who are enrolled at high schools recognized as having a better quality of education, both girls and boys, have values other than those Who learn in lesser high schools, or in arts and crafts schools.

The amount of violent programs during TV viewing

By question number 9 (see Appendix 1) we have tried to find out if adolescents choose to resort to violence when things do not flow as they want. One factor that we must take into account in this case is the personality of the individual. Most urban boys responded that either they were trying to talk to the other person and convince her to both look at the same thing, either give up watching TV and choose the computer. One person responded that they would resort to physical violence. Guys in rural areas have had similar answers, firstly using ways of persuasion through words. Also, girls, regardless of their background, responded that they usually avoid arguing with the other person so they either give up watching TV, or try to convince her to let her look, rare The cases when forced by force depend on who is the second person.

Through questions 10, 11, 12, we tried to find out to what extent the desensitization effect is found in adolescents in the sample. Thus, in question number 10, referring to engaging or assisting in a scene of violence, most boys, regardless of the background, responded that they did not intervene in the classroom, preferring to assist or leave the class, encouraging them or They are filming them to post on the internet.

Compared to these, girls are much more sensitive, especially those in the urban area, who responded much more to trying to separate the two or to ask for a teacher's help to calm the spirits. Rural girls who gave similar answers were much smaller, preferring, like boys, to assist or get out of class.

To the question of negative feelings, most of the answers were that they are not used to watching the news, but I know what it is, and that is why they have forsaken to forget. Most believe that this type of news is the most violent, embarrassing, depressing or degrading one of those presented in our country. On some of them, the topics presented amused them, others impressed them to a small extent.

The catharsis effect (question number 14) is not present in any of the respondents, the programs or violent films do not succeed in destroying them, preferring to choose other ways to calm down, such as playing computer, club or sleep. Regarding verbal violence (question 16), it is mainly used by boys, especially those in the urban environment, and girls only appeal to it when they are very nervous.

The teenagers and their opinion on TV violence

The genre of shows that adolescents in the sample use to watch are: soccer matches, talk shows, reality shows, action movies, SF films, documentaries on Discovery or National Geographic or cartoons.

On the question of violence (see Annex 1), most respondents agree that there is violence on television, some consider that it is present to a large extent, irrespective of the program and the timeframe (especially rural girls) Others thought it only exists in certain programs (opinion expressed in particular by boys).

4. CONCLUSIONS

As a result of this research, the conclusions are the following: one of the effects of television violence most often encountered among adolescents in the sample is desensitization. Violence on the screen, especially actual news bulletins, is seen as tiring, degrading, and sometimes depressing, so that, as used by so many violent scenes, adolescents have become immune to them, sometimes considered common or natural. That's why it's natural for two colleagues to quarrel, and they stand and watch as a reality show. In fact, the deaths of some people, be they national emblems, impress very few of them, others see the event as something that happens somewhere far and the press is trying to get the audience out.

In terms of book use, this is relatively low, especially among young rural people who choose to drop out of school at an increasing rate or who give low school returns, being institutionalized in vocational schools or In lesser high schools.

Although most young respondents felt there was violence in television programs, some of the programs they prefer to watch are included in this category, including verbal and sometimes physical violence. Those who believe that there is too much violence on television are especially urban girls, as one of their TV programming preferences is mostly documentary on Discovery or National Geographic. Those who believe that television violence is not present in such a large proportion, but only in certain programs and at certain times are boys in particular.

The results of this research can not be extended or generalized. The opinion of 10 people can not correctly reflect the opinion of millions of adolescents in this country. What is important to remember is that we have largely succeeded in finding out what we have proposed, most of the assumptions from which we started by obtaining validation following interviews.

Like any other research in this case, we have struck a few limits, one of which is the adolescent's refusal to communicate for interviews.

We believe that Romania is at the beginning on this road, as more research will be done in this area, the more it will be able to draw attention to issues that other countries have long been aware of. But these research should not only be known among sociologists and psychologists but be made public through campaigns in schools, especially among parents who alone are able to educate their children in the spirit of positive values and not Left the TV 'to raise their children'.

Perhaps this research does not change the present situation, the televisions will continue to transmit programs that contain scenes of violence, and the children and adolescents will look at these scenes and will bear their negative impact. We hope, however, that this alert signal will cause people in this study to be more selective with regard to television programs.

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