

**EFFECTS OF TELEVISION VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN IN
MWANZA URBAN AREA**

**DELPHINA KYARUZI
BMC/3968/31/DF**

**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES AS A PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE OF MASS
COMMUNICATION OF KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

**SUPERVISOR
MS. SYLVIA BYAMUKAMA**

JULY 2006

DECLARATION

I declare that this is my original dissertation work and has not been previously presented in any other University

Signature: 

Date: 20/07/2026

DELPHINA KYARUZI

This dissertation has been submitted for examination with my approval as University Supervisor.

Signature: 

Date: 20/7/2026

Ms. SYLVIA BYAMUKAMA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I take this golden Chance to thank those who gave out a Supporting hand in making this dissertation a Success.

Thanks a lot to all lecturers of Kampala International University who facilitated me with knowledge and skills for preparing the dissertation. They also gave me material support and so contributed much to the success of the dissertation. These are Mr. Kadu, Dr. Ongora and Ms. Sylvia Byamukama.

I will not sound good if I forget my parents, sponsors and guardians for the financial support that they provided, since without them providing money and some materials nothing would have been achieved. Their names are Mr. And Mrs. Kyaruzi and Mr. Jackson Kitamirike.

Also I still give thanks to Kampala International University Administration who supported me in various ways.

In addition I wish to express appreciation for the assistance I got from my Supervisor Ms. Sylvia Byamukama of Kampala International University, Mr. Peter Mataba of St. Augustine University and for the good corporation of parents and children of Mwanza Urban, without forgetting Mwanza Municipal Council for their Support in making this dissertation a successful one.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Declaration.....	i
Acknowledgement.....	ii
Table of content.....	iii-iv

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1	Background of the Study.....	1
1.2	Statement of the problem.....	4
1.3	Objectives of the Study.....	5
1.4	Significance of the Study.....	6
1.5	Hypothesis.....	7
1.6	Justification of the Study.....	8
1.7	Scope of the Study.....	9
1.8	Limitation of the Study.....	10
1.9	Definition of Key terms.....	11

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0	Theoretical Review.....	13
2.1	Review of the Related Literature.....	15

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1	Research Approach (Design)	20
3.2	Area of Study.....	20
3.3	Target population.....	20
3.4	Data Collection technique.....	20
3.4.1	Sampling Procedure.....	20
3.4.2	Sample Size.....	20
3.4.3	Data Collection Method.....	20
3.4.4	Data analysis procedure.....	20

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION

4.0	Research Findings.....	21
4.1	Introduction.....	21
4.2	Interpretation of research Findings.....	21

CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0	Introduction.....	24
5.1	Summary.....	24
5.2	Conclusion.....	26
5.3	Recommendation.....	27

BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	28
--------------------------	-----------

APPENDICES:

i)	Map.....	30
ii	Letter.....	31
iii)	Guidelines Questions For questions.....	32

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 BACKGROUND

Mwanza is one of Tanzania's fastest growing urban areas, with various industries being put up in the city. Mwanza city comprising of Nyamagana and Ilemela districts, is not only the major industrial and commercial center of Mwanza region but also the largest industrial and commercial center in northwest Tanzania.

It is the second largest city in Tanzania after Dar es Salaam. It covers a total of 1337 km² out of which 900km² is covered with water and the remaining area is 437km² is land. (Mwanza Municipal Council Report, 2004/2005). The city is strategically located on the Southern Shores of Lake Victoria in Tanzania.

Mwanza urban receives between 700mm and 1000mm of rainfall per annum with two rainy seasons. The short rains occur from August-October and long season from December to May in each year. Average annual temperature is between 20°C and 30°C due to the elevation of 1140 meters. Mwanza is tropical climate. (Mwanza Weather forecast Center, 2004/2005)

The soils are usually mixture of Sandy clay loam of between 1100-1600 meters in height. The natural vegetation consists of isolated tall tree scattered on grassy hills.

General population of children aged 6-14 in Mwanza urban is 1,448,795 children (National Census. 2002).

Television is far more than a box of electronic circuitry that delivers news updates and dramatic programming. More than any other device except possibly the automobile, television has altered American life {Donna McCrohan, 1990}. In many households, television is the center of attention rather than people living in the house. It has been suggested that television can interfere with personal development by impeding conversation between family members and friends, diminishing time spent in meaningful human contract, reducing learning through reading and play. Critics

(George Gerbner & William J. Bennett, 1967) blame television for perpetuating violence and antisocial behavior among viewers. It would be fair to say that television is our most controversial medium, (although the internet may in the future give it some competition for that title.)

Violence is an act of aggression (as one against a person who resists). The big story of 1970 concerned the impact or effects of television violence. The effects of television violence may be strong or weak. For some children under some condition, television violence is harmful. For other children under the same condition or for the same children under other condition it may be beneficial (Jack Lyle & Edwin B. Parker, 1961.)

In America, television violence appears to have a lot of effects especially to young children who are still in their formative years. These days whatever we watch from television altered American life (Donna Mc Crohan, 1990). The American researchers (Robinson and Godbey, 1997) noted that as children grew older, those with lower scores watched more television than did those with higher scores. They also noted that children who have unsatisfactory social relationships reported heavier viewing.

In African countries, the big number of young children seems to imitate what they are watching on television. Violent movies and other action programs like wrestling game on television have become a serious problem that can create attitudes change on children if measures are not going to be taken.

Tanzania is among African Countries where this research problem is still persisting and seems to have much effect on children who are still in their formative years. Since the establishment of different television stations in Tanzania such as ITV, TVT, Star TV, Channel 10 TV and Television Cables to a certain extent it seems to improve communication aspect-worldwide politically, economically and socially. But on another side these television stations appears to show a lot of violent programs such as movies, drama and games like wrestling and boxing. Televised violence, in one way or another may have influence on children toward social relations with others. For example there is a possibility of creating aggressive behavior and feeling of fear among children which can cause poor social relations among them.

Star Television Station situated in Mwanza urban area and other stations whose programs can be viewed in Mwanza urban, seems to show a lot of violence especially on movies than educative programs especially for children.

Violence shown on television is the problem which is still persisting in Mwanza urban area, if measure will not be taken there is the possibility of creating more aggressive behavior to some of the children and reduce good social relations with others. For example the way they interact with their fellow children at home and at school, with their parents and their teachers at school can be affected because of watching violence on television.

1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Television violence has seen to be a serious problem to children who are still in formative years. Violent movies like “terminator I and II” violent game like “wrestling” and violent cartoon like Fox’s “Tom and Jerry Kids,” are some of the violent programs shown on television as entertainment programs. These programs contributed aggressive behavior to children and affected their social relations towards others

Tanzania is among the countries in which television violence still have much effects on young children. Child’s age, sex, social class and prior level of aggression will influence the ultimate effect of viewing violence on television. Boys, for example tend to be affected by television violence than girls. In Mwanza urban these days, you can find a lot of local movie theatres situated in different areas of the city, where people go to watch movies. But most of the movies shown there are violent movies. On television cables, they show a lot violent programs also being watched by children. There is an explosive growth of TV sets ownership in almost every home, so there is a tendency for children to watch a lot of TV programs. Also there is a growth of anti-social behaviors among children like fighting, disobeying, stealing, cheating. As a result of this there is a need for a serious examination of the impact of this widespread of violent media or television content on children’s behavior.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study achieved the following objectives:-

1.2.1 Main Objective

Assessment of the effects of Television Violence on children aged 6-14 towards others in Mwanza urban

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

- * To identify children's interaction with other children after watching violence on television.
- * To identify kind of violence or violent programs on television which have much effects on children towards others.
- * To identify children's attitude towards their parents after watching Violence on television.
- * Assess children's performance at school after watching violence on television

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE

- This Study will help government to formulate policies of which programs to be shown on television, which are educative and can be able to build good foundation for children when they grow up rather than violent programs.
- Knowledge from this study will help program producers from different television stations to provide more educational programs for children rather than violent programs
- Parents will get to know more about how violent programs on television affects their children, learn how to live with television and be selective on which programs to be viewed by their children.
- Researcher will get to learn more about the research problem and get more knowledge which will be helpful to the researcher and society in general.

1.5 HYPOTHESIS

- I) If children in their formative years have spent more time watching television and less time with parents, teachers and religious leaders, it is logical that their values, customs and traditions may come from television.

- II) Violent programs viewed on television such as violent movies, wrestling game are likely to cause some children to resort to violence.

- III) There is a possibility that as children grow older those with unsatisfactory social relationships and more aggressive behavior watched more violence or violent programs on television than those who didn't.

1.6 JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

Television violence is among other factors that contributed to violent behavior or aggressive acts to children aged 6-14 in Mwanza urban area.

The problem started in the 1990's in Tanzania where lot of television stations and cables started to show a lot of violent programs such as violent movies and due to this, there was a possibility of attracting aggressive acts or violent behavior among children who watched these violent programs.

Though researchers of different parts of the world have done a lot to find out the effects of television violence on children especially in Europe and America nothing has been done in Tanzania specifically in Mwanza urban area, despite massive exposure of children to television violence especially violent movies. The researcher decided to conduct the research so as to add more knowledge about effects of television violence on children aged 6-14 in Mwanza urban area. The aim of this additional knowledge was to help the society of Mwanza and Tanzania in general to be aware about the problem.

1.7 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study was carried within Mwanza urban area. The study targeted children aged from 6 – 14 as the key study of the research problem.

1.8 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

There were some problems the researcher faced during research time. For example, financial problem, that was fund, was not enough to facilitate the whole process of research, large number of children brought a problem in getting sample size and time was not sufficient to enable one researcher to cover everything in the study.

1.9 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

- i) Aggressive behavior: - Violent behavior; an offensive attitude; quarrelsome (as one against a person who resists)
- ii) Anti –Social behavior: - Is the kind of behavior that is harmful to the laws and customs of an organized community for example fighting, stealing, cheating, and disobeying.
- iii) Carthasis: - A release of pent-up emotion or energy occurring as a function of viewing certain art forms, such as theater or music.
- iv) Carthasis theory: - A theory that suggests that viewing aggression will purge the viewer's aggressive feelings.
- v) Effects: - Change produced by an action or cause; result or outcome.
- vi) Focus group discussion: - This is the methodology involves bringing together group or series of groups of individuals to discuss an issue in the presence of moderator. The moderator ensures that the discussion remains on the issue at hand, while eliciting a wide range of opinion on that issue.
- vii) ITV: - Independent Television
- viii) Qualitative approach: - It is a research approach that emphasize interpretation over measurement. It comprises in-depth interviews, often conducted in a focus group format and observation.

- ix) Stimulation theory: - A theory that suggests viewing violence will actually stimulate an individual to behave more violently.

- x) Target Audience: - A specific segment of the population for whom the study can be conducted

- xi) Television Cable: - Is a device that bring conventional Television signals to areas that could not otherwise receive hem. It is capable of providing different channels, to their subscribers, including specialized news and information channels, movie channels and even several audio services.

- xii) Television: - Is an apparatus or device of transmitting and reproducing on a screen events, scenes, plays in pictures and sound, using radio signals.

- xiii) TV: - Television

- xiv) TVT: - Television ya Taifa

- xv) Violent movies: - These are action movies:-
can be movie about war or any kind of aggressive action.

CHAPTER 2:

LITERATURE REVIEW:

2.0 THEORETICAL REVIEW

It is important then, that we try to understand precisely and to the best of our ability the effects of mass media especially on television for much of the twentieth century, at least from the 1920s on, social scientists theorized and conducted research in an effort to provide answers to questions of media impact.

THE CATHARSIS VS STIMULATION THEORY:

These two rival theories were done to investigate the effects of watching violence. The first theory is thousands of years old; it is called the catharsis theory and can be traced back to Aristotle. This theory holds that viewing scenes of aggression can actually purge the viewer's own aggressive feelings. Thus a person who sees a violent television program or movie might end up less likely committing violence. The other theory, called the stimulation theory, argues just the opposite. It suggests that seeing scenes of violence will actually stimulate an individual to behave more violently afterward.

Imagine the following experiment; one group saw a violent film while the other saw a non violent film. Both groups were then given a turn at the punishment machine. If catharsis is right, then the group that saw *The Champion* should give less intense shocks; if stimulation is correct, then *The Champion* group should give more intense shocks.

The catharsis vs. stimulation debate was one of the earliest to surface in the study of mass media's effects. One early study seemed to point to catharsis, but a series of studies carried out by psychologist Leonard Berkowitz and his colleagues at the University of Wisconsin found strong support for the stimulation hypothesis. Since that time, the bulk of the evidence seems consistent: Watching media violence tends to stimulate aggressive behavior on the part of the viewer. There is little evidence for catharsis.

Bandura's Experiment:

The catharsis vs. stimulation question was only one of several topics that sparked early experimental work in the investigation of the effects of the media. Another controversy arose over the possibility that TV and movies were serving as a school for violence. Would children imitate violent behavior they had just observed in films or TV programs in their own real-life play behaviors? A series of experiments conducted by psychologist Albert Bandura and his colleagues during the 1960s indicated that, in fact, films and TV might teach aggressive behaviors.

Children were shown films in which a model reacted violently to a large rubber doll (called a Bobo doll). When children were placed in a play situation similar to the one they had just observed, they mimicked the behaviors they had just seen, performing far more aggressively toward the unfortunate Bobo doll than did children who had not seen the film. It was further determined that children would behave more aggressively if they were rewarded for doing so or if they saw the model in the film rewarded. Of course, as you are probably aware, there is a big difference between hitting an inanimate doll and hitting a human being. To account for this, more recent studies have substituted a human being dressed as a Clown for the faithful Bobo doll. Although more children were willing to hit the rubber doll, a large number also physically assaulted the human Clown. This reaction did not occur among children who had not seen the violent film.

Of course, there are many complicating factors that might influence the results of such experiments. To begin with, many of these studies used specially made films and videotapes. In laboratory situations, the experimental "program" may not be able to duplicate the impact of real-life TV or films. In those films and tapes produced especially for laboratory use, the violence is concentrated in a short period; there is usually a clear connection between the violence and its motivations and consequences.

Contemporary films or TV shows are not this direct, and violence is usually embedded in a larger story line. Punishment for violence may not occur until the end of the program. Motives may be mixed or unclear.

Further, it is likely that a person's age, sex, social class, and prior level of aggression will influence the ultimate effect of viewing televised violence. Boys, for example, tend to be more affected by TV violence than girls. Children who come from homes where there are no explicit guidelines condemning violence also seem to be more strongly affected. Evidence concerning age and social class is not as clear-cut. It also appears that a similarity between the setting and circumstances surrounding televised violence and the situation in which a person finds himself or herself immediately after viewing is an important factor. The more alike the two settings, the more aggressively, the person is likely to behave.

2.1 REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE:

Violence is a general term to describe actions, actually deliberate that cause or intend to cause injury to people, animals or non-living objects. Violence is often associated with aggression. There are essentially two kinds of violence: random violence, which describes small-scale acts of random or targeted violence, and coordinated violence, which describes actions carried. (Princeton University, 2001)

Violence in the Media

A highly debate topic is the influence of violent content in popular media such as television. Violence makes many appearances in these much to the displeasure of parents and politicians. Violence in these media has led to censorship in extreme cases and regulation in others, one case being the creation of the Entertainment Software Rating Board in 1994. Violent has been a central part of Video game controversy, Critics like Dave Grossman arguing that violence in games {some of which he calls "murder stimulators"} hardens children to unethical acts.

Television Violence was the issue on most people's minds in the early part of the decade. Never before in recent memory had so much graphic violence made its way to the big screen. Even more troubling to some was the fact that the violence was shown in such a lighthearted fashion. For example in "Goodfellas Movie" a mobster kills a young man over a tiny affront and tells his shocked friends not to make a big deal of it. "In another 48 Hours Movie" Eddie Murphy Shoots a robber - rouser in the knee and then asks if anybody else wants a limp. And of course, there is Arnold

Schwarzenegger's memorable "Hasta la vista baby" as he blows the bad guys away. Also to be considered is the fact that violent movies shown on television keep trying to top the viewers with more and more violence. For example, the original Robocop portrayed 32 killings; the 1990 sequel had 81. Die Hard 1 had a body count of 18; Die Hard 2 killed off 264.

The landmark Study by (Wilbur Schramm, Jack Lyle & Edwin B. Parker, 1960's) suggest that there is a small, but persistent link between television violence and violent behavior in real life. Criticism about violence, however, has been directed at television because of the medium's pervasiveness. Today however, with movie special effects reaching new heights of realism, violent movies are more and more a cause of concern.

One apprehension is that all of this violence and high-tech killing, particularly when it is presented in amusing way, might numb us to the pain and suffering that accompany real – life violence.

Critics {George Gerbner & William J. Bennett, 1967} are not satisfied by these arguments. They maintain that although adults might understand nature of television violence, children might not, and the increasing of violent movies on cable television has made them more accessible to impressionable youngsters. Violence on television seems to attract an audience especially children.

Much research has been done on the effects of violence in the media especially on television. Early research done by three American Scientists Wilbur Schramm, Jack Lyle and Edwin B. Parker in 1960's indicated limited effects, suggesting that the impact varied from individual to individual. Some persons reacted more than others. They also hastened to point out that, obviously not everyone who saw the violent movies on television committed the crime. In their book: "Television in the lives of our children" {1961} reached the following conclusions; for some children under some conditions, some television is harmful. For other children under other conditions it may be beneficial. For most children, under most conditions, most television is probably neither particularly harmful nor particularly beneficial.

These scientists further reported that although there was no indication that television violence causes delinquency or violent behavior in most normal children, certain children might be susceptible. In short

Schramm and his colleagues emphasized that the intellectual and emotional characteristics of children were important factors in determining television influence.

A similar study by {Himmelwaite, Oppenheim and Vance} published in 1958 concluded that television violence had little negative effect on children, except for those who were emotionally disturbed or predisposed to a particular stimulus. In other words, normal children would probably not commit a violent act as a result of watching violence on television.

This early thinking about limited effects applied to violence among children as well as adult. Later research began to show more direct effects to the general population, normal and abnormal alike, but especially to children. By the end of the century, television had become the dominant mass media activity, especially for children. If young children in their formative years have spent more time watching television and less time with parents, teachers and religious leaders, it is logical that their values, beliefs, customs and traditions are going to come from television.

According to the American Psychological Association, the typical television-watching American child will witness 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence in his or her lifetime. Cartons are among the most violent programs. In 1992, "Cookies Cartoon Club," Fox's "Tom and Jerry Kids," and Nickelodeon's, "Looney Tunes" average 100, 88 and 80 acts of violence per hour respectively. All violence on television is increasing. In 1980, for example, the most violent {Young Indian-Jones"} registered 60 acts of violent per hour.

Increasingly Social Scientists have found a link between television violence and behavior among young children. In 1993, the Christian Science Monitor reported that more than 3,000 students of fared evidence that violent programming had a measurable effect on young minds. One such Study, for example a 1987 survey by American Christian Science Monitor, randomly selected children aged 10-14 who engaged in risk behavior such as fighting, drinking, sealing, cigarette and marijuana

smoking in America and Europe were likely to spend more time watching violent movies on television than were those who did not

By the last decades of the century new concerns were being raised about the powerful effects of mass media, particularly in the area of violence, especially on television. Theorists have become concerned with long-term effects more than short-term, is harder to prove scientifically.

Accumulative and Cultivation Effects

Media images mold society by the long-term presentation of relatively uniform versions of social reality. This theory is based largely on 20 years of research by University of Pennsylvania Scholar George Gerbner and his associates. Their research shows that mass media influence occurs because of continued and lengthy exposure, especially to television not just exposure to individual programs. Much of their research is based on differences among heavy, moderate and light users of television. The “accumulated effects” of the media exposure especially on television cultivates the way people think about things; the heavier the exposure, the greater the long-term impact.

For example, television violence causes some children to resort to violence; that high amount of television viewing decreases children’s verbal development and lowers their prospects for academic achievement. Children’s programs were least likely to show the long-term effects of violence, and they frequently mix violence with humour. But when violence is presented without punishment, viewers are more likely to conclude that violence is a successful method for achieving one’s goal.

Parents are more concerned about television influence on their children than they are about the influence of music video games, news papers or magazines. Of all these media, 58.6 percent of parents in a study by the Annenberg Public Policy Center named television as the number one concern about attitude change among children.

In Tanzania, especially in big Cities for example Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Arusha, violent programs on television seems to have a lot of effect on children who are still

in their formative years. The influence of television violence on children in Mwanza Urban started after the availability of television cables and television stations since in 1990's. From there, violent programs started to be viewed on television as entertainment without regarding whether it will have much effect to viewers especially children.

Some American researchers {Himmelwaite, Oppenheim and Vance, 1958} said that, the normal children would probably not commit a violent act as a result of watching violence on television. Critics {William J. Bennett and George Gerbner, 1967} said that television violence can cause some viewers especially children to resort to violence. But in reality there is a link between television violence and violent behavior or acts.

Two studies conducted by team of psychologists, one of them was Dr. Leonard Berkowitz and reported in the Autumn 1975 issue of the Journal of communication provide preliminary evidence that short-term exposure to televised violence may affect some children's attitudes by increasing their tolerance of violence.

In the first instance, one group of children watched an aggressive excerpt from a television detective program, and another group saw an excerpt from an existing sports event. The result of the Study showed that; children who saw the aggressive program were slower to report the alleged fight than were the children who had not been exposed to media violence. The second Study was identical to the first, except that older children {fifth-graders} were tasted. Like the children in the first Study, the fifth-graders who had watched the detective program were slower to seek help once the fight began. Although these studies cannot be called conclusive but they show that there is a link between television violence and aggressive behavior which affect viewers especially children who are still in their formative years.

CHAPTER 3:

METHODOLOGY:

3.1 RESEARCH APPROACH {DESIGN}

Researcher used a focus group discussion approach.

3.2 STUDY AREA:

This Study was conducted in Mwanza Urban area.

3.3 TARGET POPULATION:

Target population was children aged 6-14 from Mwanza Urban Area.

3.4 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES:

3.4.1 Sampling Procedure

Purposive Sampling was used, where by children aged 6-14 including female and male were selected. This procedure made the process of collecting data easier because the researcher targeted only children who watched violent programs on TV such as violent movies. This sampling procedure was helpful to find out the outcomes of the research problem.

3.4.2 Sample size:

The sample size consisted of 10 children including 5 girls and 5 boys aged 6-14 from Mwanza Urban area.

3.4.3 Data Collection Method:

In-depth interview was used; it was conducted in a focus group discussion. As a researcher, I conducted focus group discussion with children selected. Guideline questions were used for in-depth interview about the research problem, and through discussing data were collected by the researcher.

3.4.4 Data analysis Procedure:

Data collected were analyzed through qualitative approach. This means that, findings of the study were interpreted in explanation form.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION

4.0 RESEARCH FINDINGS:

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents research findings and their interpretation. It deals with the testing of various objectives based on the research topic that were utilized for this study.

The findings achieved the following objectives:

(a) Main Objective

Assessment of the effects of Television Violence on children aged 6-14 towards others in Mwanza urban.

(b) Specific Objectives

- (i) To identify children's interaction with other children after watching violence on television.
- (ii) To identify kind of violence or violent programs on television which have much effects on children towards others.
- (iii) To identify children's attitude towards their parents after watching violence on television.
- (iv) Assess children's performance at school after watching violence on television.

4.2 INTERPRETATION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS:

According to the research I have done, I have found that, most of the children aged 6-14 in Mwanza Urban spent most of their free time watching TV programs. An explosive growth of TV sets ownership in homes has contributed much to the heavy viewing of TV programs to children in Mwanza Urban. Approximately 70 percent of children in Mwanza Urban like watching violent movies compared to other kind of programs on TV. Children interviewed said that, they like watching violent or action movies because they are learning different techniques about fighting. They also

watch cartoons but most of the cartoons shown on TV these days are full of violence. In Mwanza Urban, violent movies are not only shown on television but even in local movie theatres situated in different parts of the city, and Children are the ones who spent more time in watching.

Due to the explosive growth of viewing violent movies by children on TV in Mwanza Urban, I have found that, there is a link between TV violence and aggressive behavior among children. This is because a big number of children aged 6-14 who spent most of their time watching violence on TV imitate whatever they see regardless of whether it is good or bad. Boys tend to be more affected by TV violence than girls. This is because boys watched a lot of violent movies more than girls. Not all children in Mwanza Urban like watching violent movies on TV, but most of them do watch them.

Through my investigation, I have found that boys are acting more aggressive than girls though not all. But they are some of the girls who act aggressive too but to a small extent. Aggressive behavior in children is one of the effect that has been influenced by television violence to a large extent. There are other factors that influence aggressive behavior in children like environment where they are living but to a small extent.

At times children are born with aggressiveness which is assumed to be genetically passed over to them by their parents according to William Golding in his book "Lord of the Flies". Alcoholic parents who like fighting after getting drunk also contributed to aggressive behavior in their children to a certain extent. Peer groups who are violent and environment especially slum area also can contribute to aggressive behavior in children.

Television violence has played a very big part to contribute anti-social behavior among children especially aged from 14 and below in Mwanza Urban. I have noted this through the findings I have got; most of the children who are misbehaving: those ones who like fighting, stealing, cheating and those who are disobedient to their parents at home and even their teachers at school are very good viewers of violent movies on TV. And it is true that heavy viewing of violence on TV by children cause

them to act more violent compared to those who do not. About 70 percent of children aged 6-14 in Mwanza Urban who are violent watched a lot of violent movies on TV.

Television has been charged as school of violence to children because of showing a lot of violent movies. I have found that, there is a relationship between television viewing and school performance of children aged 6-14. In Mwanza Urban, there are some children who performed well in class and others performed badly, though all of them watched violent movies on TV. So the impacts of TV viewing toward school performance in children depend on social class, age, and parental attitudes toward reading. Also time spent watching matters a lot to determine the effects of viewing violence on TV on children-towards their school performance. Children who have really been affected by TV violence toward their school performance in Mwanza Urban spent much of their time in watching than reading. And those ones who are performing well in class, tried to balance their time between watching and reading, and it is because of the influence of their parents and not themselves. So school performance of a child depends much on his or her social class, age and parental attitudes toward reading.

To sum up and perhaps oversimplify, it is probably fair to say that, television violence has played a very big part in stimulating aggressive behavior in children who are still in their formative years. And even it has really affected their social relations towards others in the society of Mwanza Urban.

CHAPTER FIVE:

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter will present the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study.

5.1 SUMMARY

For much of the twentieth century at least from the 1920's on social scientists from Europe and America theorized and conducted research in an effort to provide answers to questions of media impact especially on television (TV).

A variety of theories had developed by the 1920's which suggested that mass media could operate like magic bullets or hypodermic needles, penetrating human minds and emotions to create specific responses. According to stimulation theory, it suggests that seeing scenes of violence will actually stimulate an individual to behave more violently afterward. There is another theory called catharsis which argues oppositely that, viewing scenes of aggression can actually purge the viewer's own aggressive feelings. But there is little evidence for catharsis because it was done thousands of years ago before the explosive growth of TV.

Series of Studies carried out by different psychologists including Leonard Berkowitz and his colleagues at the University of Wisconsin they found strong support for the stimulation hypothesis: since that time the bulk of the evidence seems consistent: watching media violence tends to stimulate aggressive behavior on the part of the viewer.

As the 1970's began, the scientific advisory panel composed of mass communication researchers was set up by the Surgeon General's Office to investigate the impact of exposure to TV violence. The report that was released by this group, although it did contain some controversial elements, indicated that TV violence was related in a modest way to aggressive behavior, especially in young children.

From 1990's on, a lot of changes appeared in the field of communication in different parts of Tanzania. Explosive growth of TV sets in people's homes refocused much attention on media impact on young children. In Mwanza Urban area, many families with children have TV sets in their homes, and children tend to watch a lot of

television. Approximately 70 percent of children in Mwanza Urban like watching violent movies compared to other kind of programs on TV. Heavy viewing of TV violence by children prompted the commission of serious aggressive acts. TV violence on the other side has affected school performance of children who spend much time watching than reading.

It is probably fair to say that, TV violence has played a very big part to influence aggressive behavior or acts to young children who are still in their formative years. Though there are other factors that can influence aggressive acts in children to a small extent.

5.2 CONCLUSION:

Television violence has been seen to be a major factor in stimulating aggressive acts to children who are still in their formative years, especially aged from 6- 14, this is because children spend most of their time watching and imitating what they see on TV . So the impact of TV viewing to them is much more bigger compared to adults. TV violence also affects school performance of a child but this is influenced by such factors like social class, age, parental attitudes towards reading and time spent watching. Much research indicates that when exposure occurs early in life before other factors like parents teachers or religious leaders inculcate our values, then mass media can have a powerful impact.

Finally, the greater the exposure to media like TV the more powerful the influence. And the more effective the media mix and presentation, the greater the effect.

5.3 RECOMENDATION

In order to deal with this problem of the effects of television violence to the children, the following recommendations will be appropriate.

- I. It will be a good advice for the government to formulate policies of which programs to be shown on the television, which are educative and can be able to build a good foundation to children who are still in their formative years. By doing this, violent programs such as violent movies will be reduced at least to a certain extent to be shown on the television.
- II. Children should be educated about the negative effects of television violence. By doing this it will help to prevent children from imitating what they watch from violent movies.
- III. Time factor should be considered where by it will be good for these television stations to show these violent movies in late hours when children are in a sleep.
- IV. Parents are supposed to be selective in the programs to be watched by their children. They have to make sure that their children are watching good programs which are more educative instead of violent movies.
- V. Because these local movie theaters show a lot of violent movies which influence aggressive behavior to children. So it will be good for them to play their part in society by making sure that they don't allow children to come in and watch any kind of violent movie. Or they can put special movies for children which are educative and at convenient time so that children get to learn good things instead of watching violent movies which influence them to be aggressive.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Dominick, Joseph R. (1993), **The Dynamics of Mass Communication.** McGraw – Hill, Inc.
- Hiebert Ray Eldon (1999). **Impact of Mass Media: Current Issues.** (4th Edition). New York: Longman
- Hiebert R.E. and Gibbons S.J. (2000) **Exploring Mass Media for a Changing World.** Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.
- Himmelwaite, Hilde, Oppenheim, A.N. and Vance, Pamela (1958) **Television and the Child.** London Oxford University Press
- Liebert, Robert M., John Neale, and Emily Davidson, (1988) **The Early Window: Effects of Television on Children and Youth.** New York: Pergamon Press.
- Palmer, Edward and Aimee Dorr, (1980) **Children and the Faces of Television.** New York: Academic Press.
- Schramm, Wilbur, Lyle, Jack, and Parker, Edwin B. (1961) **Television in the Lives of Our Children.** Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press
- Keith f. Punch (1998) **Introduction to Social Research.** SAGE PUBLICATION
- Olive M. Mugenda and Abel G. Mugenda (1999) **Research Methods.** NAIROBI, Kenya Acts Press

INTERNET:

- **Children and TV Violence.**
www.parenthoodweb.com/parent_cfmfiles/pros.cfm. 1st December, 2005
- **Pop Artist information about Violence.** Copyright 2006 All Media Guide.
answers.com, 1st March 2006.
- **Research on the Effects of Media Violence.** Television Violence: a review of the Effects on children of different Ages (Department of Canadian Heritage, February 1995)
www.media.awareness.ca/english/issues/violence/effects_media_violence.cfm, 15th March 2006.
- **TV and Film Violence.** www.cybercollege.com/violence.htm, 15th March 2006.
- **WorldNet information about Violence.** Copyright 2001 by Princeton University, answers.com, 15th March 2006.

MWANZA CITY: LOCATION MAP

