

# The Role of TV Series on Runaway Girls from Home (Case Study: Sanandaj City)

Dr. Seyyed Abdollah Sadjadi Jaqargh<sup>1</sup>, Aref Rahimi<sup>2</sup>

1- Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch, Department of Social Communication Sciences, Tehran, Iran

2- Islamic Azad University, Tehran East Branch, Department of Social Communication Sciences, Tehran, Iran

---

## **Abstract**

*The main aim of this research is to examine the role of television series on runaway girls from home in the city of Sanandaj. Research was conducted by survey method of correlation type. In this research, all female adolescents and youths from city of Sanandaj, who had run away from home, and was sheltered in boarding centers called "Reihaneh Houses" or quarantine under supervision of Rehabilitation Organization for a period in 2012-2013 or were being shelter, were included. Sampling was conducted by simple randomized method. In data analysis, hypotheses were tested using inferential statistics of chi-square. Findings showed that watching television series reduces rate of antisocial behaviors (violence, aggression, ribaldry, and misdemeanor). Watching television series reduces rate of illegitimate relations among girls. The results of this research indicated that the roles of television were increased educational achievement, reduced children and adolescents' misdemeanor, optimal, attractive impression, and television was the loveliest means of entertainment for children and adolescents. Watching violent movies, actions moves, tendency toward misdemeanor, moves on the screens of movie theatres, and comic television series were among factors intensifying antisocial behaviors and run away from home. Statistical test of research hypotheses was confirmed with 5% error, and showed with 95% confidence that there is a significant relation between watching television series and reduced illegitimate relations among girls.*

**Keywords:** TV series, runaway girls, quarantine

---

## **Introduction**

Television today provides important experience for development of children and youth, and makes them watch television with two motivations of entertainment and learning. Children as special audiences, with imperfect understanding of material and social world, with partly limited capabilities, and with desire for leaning come to this communication means, and television provides them with a pleasant world for perception and learning.

Children usually become familiar with audiovisual media at six years old or above, and show special attachments to television and its programs. What kinds of programs do children like more? Answers to this question show that between three and six, children are more interest in their specific programs such as animation, puppet games, animal stories, factious stories, and the like, but as the grow older they show interest in adults' programs as well.

Few other communication means can create as much mental involvement as television can. Use of it does not require literacy and knowledge of alphabet, so, it is can be a substitute to print text both for children who may not use texts easily until ten, and adults who are illiterate or low literate, especially in Iran where people are not very interested in reading. For children, television is a window to spectacles and wonders of the world, nature, space, animals' worlds, creatures' world, plants as well as human worlds, and makes it possible for them in best way possible to discover the worlds, know different territories, and

---

1- Assistant professor

2. M.A. Student, Corresponding author

become familiar with people from other countries. Television widens horizon of children's view as wide as the world today, provides them with new experiences, and takes them from confinement of home and family beyond the world. This is true that children are easily attracted to television, and are highly influenced by it, but television alone does not make their personality and mentality (Asadi, 2007).

Necessity of creation of healthy, advanced and independent society in future requires this issue to be considered as being very serious and vital, and a special part of qualitative and quantitative facilities and capitals of country be allocated to this important issue. And based on such important matter that like it or not future is children's, and they are those who are to run the country, if future belongs to a wasted generation whose mind is full of darkness, how one could be optimistic about future of this country. Physiological and psychological feature of young ages requires this group to be directly led, guided, accompanied and educated. The best and the closest guider is family, which knowing needs, tendencies, and desires of child can provide him/her with logical and reasonable solutions.

But the family's capabilities and capacities are limited and cannot always be satisfactory for youths' rebellious spirit is in all aspects and fields. Besides, many families for different reasons, such as tribe, illiteracy, cultural poverty, any perversion of the parents are not considered as a positive factor for guiding and educating their children. So the onus is on the government to use the facilities and staff it holds to act as the families' supplement (Etminan, 2011).

It must be said that young people have different motivations for watching television programs including taking pleasure, a means to escape emotional, social pressures, and so on.

When children and adolescents watch television program, they easily impressed by heroes and characters of these programs and stories, and identify him/herself with them.

So, with a large audience, mostly children and teenagers, television is responsible for a huge mission. That is, first, it can provide them with a good atmosphere at home by choosing and broadcasting educational and entertaining series, make them committed to family, and creating a good role model for them, make family warmer, and second, by choosing and broadcasting good and entertaining programs provide children and adolescent with good leisure times so that they do not turn to unsafe entertainment and do not be exposed to diversion to fill their leisure time.

It is undeniable that through their profound effect, cinema and television have deep mental and educational impact on children and adolescents. Therefore, whenever programs and series have useful social and education contents, they will guide children toward sublime human goals from the very childhood, and turn them to useful elements who will contribute to society and their fellow humans.

On the contrary, when television programs and series contain crime films involving crime of murder, looting, killing, they will wake up the spirit of adventure and wildness in children and turn them into destructive anti-social elements.

Content of television programs must be developed with so much care and fineness that no erroneous picture of life and human relations is presented by them to viewers, and provide children and adolescent with significant amount of useful information. In this way, children and adolescent will be introduced with many of customs and features of adults (Siavashian, 1996). According to the above discussions, the present study is to address the topic "The Role of TV series in prevention of girls' run away from home".

Our country has a very young population and age groups of child and adolescent account for a large part of the country's total population, children who will determine the future of country. Television today is so pervasive communication device that is readily available to children in most houses.

Television combining image, sound, movement, color creates extreme attraction especially for children and this is one of the features that distinguish capability of this media from other media.

Context of television programs in general and children's programs in particular, has a fictional character and in this respect, controls the fantastical mind of the child easily, penetrates his/her mind, and flies him/her to world of dream.

Scientists believe that many television films, and series and family series explicitly incite people who are susceptible incitation to commit crime, which requires running away from home. Cinema and television, due to their attraction, have deep psychological and educational impact on children. So, when family series and films have useful social and educational content, children will be guided towards high human

goads from the early years and they will become useful elements who will serve better their society and human kind. (Azadi Moghadam, 2010).

At first glance, it seems very satisfactory progress in today's television industry. Films, entertainment programs and series can be received from around the world at any hour of the day by pressing one button (Ranjbar, 2007). Undoubtedly, what adds to necessity of conducting more such researches is usefulness of the results of the of them for various social institutions such as families, policymakers of the media, cultural organizations and planners, etc., which may revise media programs based on these results on the one hand, and promote qualitative indices of such an effective institution as family. The main question in this study is whether TV series have an effect on girls' run away from home?

## Methodology

The current study is conducted by applied method in terms of objective and it is done by correlation type in terms of gathering descriptive data. To collect data, the researcher-made questionnaire has been used. The population in this study comprised all adolescents and young female runaways from city of Sanandaj who were sheltered in boarding centers called Reihaneh Houses, or quarantine for a period in 2012-2013, or were being sheltered. Face validity and content validity of this inventory were acquired by means of the existing sources and receiving comments from experts while by conducting experimental tests and calculation of Cronbach Alpha coefficient the reliability of this test was determined as 0.85. According to Cochran's formula, sample size was specified as 65 persons out of statistical population. Simple randomized sampling method was used, which reduced to 55 persons after excluding invalid and altered questionnaires.

## Results and Discussions

In this section, the most important findings of the research, including results of testing hypothesizes and theoretical analysis of them is provided.

Question 1: does watching TV series reduce runaway of girls from home?

**Table 1 study of relation between watching TV and runaway of girls from home**

| Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low | Level of watching | Duration of watching(hrs) |
|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| ۱۷        | ۰    | ۰       | ۰   | ۱۷       | Observed          | 1                         |
| ۱۷        | ۶    | ۴,۳     | ۶,۸ | ۰,۳      | Expected          |                           |
| ۱۰۰       | ۰    | ۰       | ۰   | ۱۰۰      | Percent observed  |                           |
| ۳۰,۹      | ۰    | ۰       | ۰   | ۱۰۰      | Percent expected  |                           |
| ۲۲        | ۰    | ۰       | ۲۲  | ۰        | Observed          | 2                         |
| ۲۲        | ۸    | ۰,۶     | ۸,۸ | ۶,۸      | Expected          |                           |
| ۱۰۰       | ۰    | ۰       | ۱۰۰ | ۰        | Percent observed  |                           |
| ۴۰        | ۰    | ۰       | ۱۰۰ | ۰        | Percent expected  |                           |
| ۱۴        | ۰    | ۱۴      | ۰   | ۰        | Observed          | ۳                         |
| ۱۴        | ۰    | ۳,۶     | ۰,۶ | ۴,۳      | Expected          |                           |
| ۱۰۰       | ۰    | ۱۰۰     | ۰   | ۰        | Percent observed  |                           |
| ۲۰,۰      | ۰    | ۱۰۰     | ۰   | ۰        | Percent expected  |                           |
| ۲         | ۲    | ۰       | ۰   | ۰        | Observed          | ۴                         |
| ۲         | ۱    | ۰       | ۰,۸ | ۰,۶      | Expected          |                           |
| ۱۰۰       | ۱۰۰  | ۰       | ۰   | ۰        | Percent observed  |                           |
| ۳,۶       | ۱۰۰  | ۰       | ۰   | ۰        | Percent expected  |                           |

|     |     |      |     |     |                  |       |
|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------------------|-------|
| ۵۵  | ۲   | ۱۴   | ۲۲  | ۱۷  | Observed         | Total |
| ۵۵  | ۲   | ۱۴   | ۲۲  | ۱۷  | Expected         |       |
| ۱۰۰ | ۳,۶ | ۲۵,۵ | ۴۰  | ۳۰  | Percent observed |       |
| ۱۰۰ | ۱۰۰ | ۱۰۰  | ۱۰۰ | ۱۰۰ | Percent expected |       |

**Table 2 calculation of X2**

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| X2 value           | ۱۶۲,۸۹ |
| Significance level | ۰,۰۰   |
| Sample size        | 55     |

As we see in table above, x2 value is 162.89, and  $p < 0.05$ , we concluded that the null hypothesis was rejected and research hypothesis was confirmed. In other words, there is a signification relation between watching TV series and reduced runaway of girls from home, and watching TV series reduces runaway of girls from home.

Research question 2 – watching TV series reduces antisocial behavior (violence, aggression, ribaldry and misdemeanor)

**Table 3 study of relation between watching TV series and antisocial behaviors**

| Total | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low | Level of watching TV | Antisocial behavior |
|-------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| ۱۶    | ۰         | ۱    | ۱       | ۳   | ۱۱       | Observed             | Violence            |
| ۱۶    | ۰         | ۰    | ۴,۳     | ۶,۸ | ۵,۳      | Expected             |                     |
| ۱۰۰   | ۱         | ۰    | ۰       | ۰   | ۱۰۰      | Percent observed     |                     |
| ۳۰,۹  | ۰,۶       | ۰    | ۰       | ۰   | ۱۰۰      | Percent expected     |                     |
| ۲۲    | ۰         | ۰    | ۰       | ۲۲  | ۰        | Observed             | Aggression          |
| ۲۲    | ۰         | ۰    | ۵,۶     | ۸,۸ | ۶,۸      | Expected             |                     |
| ۱۰۰   | ۰         | ۰    | ۰       | ۱۰۰ | ۰        | Percent observed     |                     |
| ۴۰    | ۰         | ۰,۶  | ۰       | ۱۰۰ | ۰        | Percent expected     |                     |
| ۱۴    | ۰         | ۱    | ۱۴      | ۰   | ۰        | Observed             | Ribaldry            |
| ۱۴    | ۰         | ۰    | ۳,۶     | ۵,۶ | ۴,۳      | Expected             |                     |
| ۱۰۰   | ۰         | ۰    | ۱۰۰     | ۰   | ۰        | Percent observed     |                     |
| ۲۵,۵  | ۰         | ۰,۸  | ۱۰۰     | ۰   | ۰        | Percent expected     |                     |
| ۳     | ۰         | ۰    | ۰       | ۰   | ۰        | Observed             | Misdemeanor         |
| ۲     | ۰         | ۷/۰  | ۰       | ۰,۸ | ۰,۶      | Expected             |                     |
| ۱۰۰   | ۰         | ۰    | ۰       | ۰   | ۰        | Percent observed     |                     |
| ۳,۶   | ۰         | ۰,۴  | ۰       | ۰   | ۰        | Percent expected     |                     |
| ۵۵    | ۰         | ۲    | ۱۴      | ۲۵  | ۱۱       | Observed             | Total               |
| ۵۵    | ۱         | ۲    | ۱۴      | ۲۲  | ۱۷       | Expected             |                     |
| ۱۰۰   | ۲,۸       | ۴,۲  | ۲۵,۵    | ۴۶  | ۲۲       | Percent observed     |                     |
| ۱۰۰   | ۰         | ۱۰   | ۱۰۰     | ۱۰۰ | ۱۰۰      | Percent expected     |                     |

**Table 4 calculation of X2**

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| X2 value           | ۴۸,۱۲۸ |
| Significance level | ۰,۰۰۱  |
| Sample size        | 55     |

As we see in table above, x2 value is 48.128, and  $p < 0.05$ , we concluded that the null hypothesis was rejected and research hypothesis was confirmed. In other words, there is a signification relation between watching TV series and reduced runaway of girls from home, and watching TV series reduces antisocial behaviors (violence, aggression, ribaldry, and misdemeanor).

Research question 3 – watching TV series reduces illegitimate relations among girls

**Table 5 study of relation between watching TV series and illegitimate relations among girls**

| Total | Very high | High | Average | Low | Very low | Level of impact of watching |                       |
|-------|-----------|------|---------|-----|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
|       |           |      |         |     |          | Illegitimate relation       |                       |
| ۵۵    | ۱         | ۲    | ۴       | ۲۲  | ۲۶       | Observed                    | Illegitimate relation |
| ۵۵    | ۱۱        | ۱۱   | ۱۱      | ۱۱  | ۱۱       | Expected                    |                       |
| ۱۰۰   | ۱,۸       | ۳,۶۳ | ۷,۲۷    | ۴۰  | ۴۷       | Percent observed            | Total                 |
| ۱۰۰   | ۲۰        | ۲۰   | ۲۰      | ۲۰  | ۲۰       | Percent expected            |                       |
| ۵۵    | ۱         | ۲    | ۴       | ۲۲  | ۲۶       | Observed                    | Total                 |
| ۵۵    | ۱۱        | ۱۱   | ۱۱      | ۱۱  | ۱۱       | Expected                    |                       |
| ۱۰۰   | ۱,۸       | ۳,۶۳ | ۷,۲۷    | ۴۰  | ۴۷       | Percent observed            | Total                 |
| ۱۰۰   | ۲۰        | ۲۰   | ۲۰      | ۲۰  | ۲۰       | Percent expected            |                       |

**Table 6 calculation of X2**

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| X2 value           | ۳۹,۱۴۷ |
| Significance level | ۰,۰۱۱  |
| Sample size        | 55     |

As we see in table above, x2 value is 39.147, and  $p < 0.05$ , we concluded that the null hypothesis was rejected and research hypothesis was confirmed. In other words, there is a signification relation between watching TV series and reduced runaway of girls from home, and watching TV series reduces illegitimate relations among girls.

## Conclusion

Result of statistical test of research hypothesis was confirmed with 5% error, and showed existence of significant relation between watching TV series and reduced runaway of girls from home with 95% confidence. In other words, watching TV series reduces runaway of girls from home. Findings of research were consistent with findings of researches of Sarokhani and Katbi (1987), Pourahmadi (2000), Ahmadzadeh (1996), Abbasifard (2002), Hosseinalizadeh (2006) and Bagheri (2010). They reported in researches on “study of role of TV on behavior of children and adolescents” that: role of TV in educational achievement, reduced misdemeanor by children and adolescents, optimum impression, attractiveness, and the loveliest entertainment means for children and adolescents. Leo Bogart (1958), quoted by Amiri Shirazi (2004), reported in a research that introduction of TV into the US was useful. Himmel White (1998) reported in a research that younger and more moron children had their general

knowledge increased after watching TV, while watching TV by smarter children led to their educational backwardness, compared with their counterparts who didn't watch TV.

Research hypothesis 2) watching TV series reduces antisocial behaviors (violence, aggression, ribaldry, and misdemeanor).

Result of statistical test of research hypothesis was confirmed with 5% error and showed with 95% confidence that there was a significant relation between TV and reduced antisocial behaviors (violence, aggression, ribaldry, and misdemeanor). In other words, watching TV series reduces antisocial behaviors (violence, aggression, ribaldry, and misdemeanor). Albert (1989) reported in his research that: impact of aggressive films on their aggressive responses was effective.

Emri (1989) reported that psychological effects on western movies lead to imagination in children and adolescents, leading to triggering of aggressive impulses and subsequently reduced general level of aggression. Generally speaking, watching happy movies and identification with them occurs and vice versa.

Sanjar (1978), social department of rehabilitation organization (2010), national youths organization (2008), Motamedi (2008), Mohebbi (2010), Najafzadeh (2007), Samadirad (2010), Sadeghi (2011), Sakhavat (2011), Ghafari (2010) reported in their researches that watching violent and action movies, tendency towards misdemeanor, movies on the screen of movie theatres, and comic TV series are among factors intensifying antisocial behavior and runaway from home.

Research hypothesis 3) watching TV series reduces illegitimate relations among girls.

Result of statistical test of research hypothesis was confirmed with 5% error and showed with 95% confidence that there was a significant relation between TV and reduced illegitimate relations among girls.

The researcher might make some suggestions as follows: It is suggested for other similar researches to be conducted in other cities of Iran, for longer time to be allowed for performance of projects by students. It is suggested for rehabilitation organization to give notice to its personnel to cooperate with master students in performance of their projects, for authorities to give assurance to girls covered by rehabilitation in these conditions (cooperation in completion of questionnaires without anxiety), proper planning for broadcasting violent TV programs: such planning may be conducted in two ways: first, such programs are broadcasted with lower frequency. Second, intervals are considered between violent programs, so that such people would be less exposed to criminal methods. Parents' control: parents also can reduce negative effects of TV by adopting some measures. Such planning by parents may be in two ways: first, they may bind adolescent to watch his specific programs, second, they choose proper programs from among programs. Providing training to parents of children who have committed misdemeanor: such training may cover different aspects, however, initially it may be provided in two ways:

a) They are trained to plan for use of TV by adolescents.

b) After film ends, they hold analysis and dialogue sessions on the film and its heroes so that mind of youths are directed towards realities. Providing a warm and intimate family atmosphere, and making families aware that their adolescent children need such atmosphere. If there has been no such relations in family so far, and if families with children who had committed misdemeanor succeed to do so, such youths will also enjoy family relations, and spend less time watching TV programs, and commit less misdemeanors. On the other hand, they would not lose the intimate family environment easily, which they didn't have before. Moderate and adequate relation with peers: youths must be encouraged to have interaction with their peers, and to establish healthy and adequate relation with them, and participate with them in group and social activities. These relations will occupy some of time of youths, and prevent them from watching negative and improper role models in TV. Encouraging perpetrators of misdemeanor to take other activities: if we succeed, whether in centers of correction and education or homes, to involve adolescents who had committed misdemeanor in their favorite occupations, such as vocational, artistic, sport activities, etc., less new misdemeanor styles will be learned, because adolescents will have lesser time to watch TV, and will not be exposed to negative role models.

**References**

- Sarokhani, B., *Sociology of Communication*. Tehran. Etelaat Publication, 1988.
- Azadi Moghadam, M., 2010, *role of visual media (TV and film) in the nature and extent of child and adolescent misdemeanor*, Azad University. Naragh branch.
- Amiri Shirazi, F. (2012). *Study of the role of TV in the misdemeanor children*. Master's thesis. Azad University Central Tehran Branch.
- Asadi, A. *TV in Iran. Opinion survey and social research organization of Iran national broadcasting organization*.
- Siavashian, R. *The role and impact on society today of mass communication means*. Policy making department of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, 1996.
- Mousavi, A (2012). *Impact of children's and adolescents' TV series of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting's channel 1 on children and adolescents*. Bachelor Thesis. Islamic Azad University Central Tehran Branch.