

The Depiction of Violent Masculine Traits in Pashtu Movies and its Impact on Youth Behaviour

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Abstract

This study explains the depiction of violence in Pashtu movies and its impact on the youth's behaviour in Pashtun society. Quantitative techniques have been employed for this purpose for which data were collected from the youth through questionnaire and interview schedule. Data were, thus, collected from 360 respondents using purposive sampling technique. It was found that Pashtu movies have significant impact on the youth's behaviour. Pashtu movies romanticised the Pashtun cultural violence. The primary data shows significant ($p=0.000$) association between the Pashtu movies and violent impact on the youth's behaviour. Violent character is presented as a brave and honourable person of Pashtun society in Pashtu movies. Moreover, it was found that Pashtu movies inject violence into the minds of the youth thereby making them imitate the violent character of villain or hero in their real lives. It is the responsibility of the censor boards to keep check on the violence which is shown in Pashtu movies.

Keywords: Pashtu Movies, Depiction of Violence, Idealizing Violence, Violent Impact on Youth Behavior

Introduction

Violence is considered as an integral part of human societies. The child learns violence through socialization and literature, culture, art and movies. The dissemination of violent literature, violent cultural traits and violence in movies have violent impact on youth's behaviour (Rehman, 2016; Javid, 2013; Zeb, 2016; Shinwari, 2012). Pashtun movies writers and directors depict violence in most of the

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Pashtu movies to attract audience (Alam, Zahid, & Ali, 2019). The young and regular viewers imitate these violent characters in the real life which often create family disputes (Saleem, Anderson, & Gentile, 2012). Youth learn that every dispute can be resolved through violence as depicted in Pashtu movies.

Movies, television shows, and music programs are mostly considered as a source of entertainment, education, and socialization (Ward, 2003). These programs have significant influence on viewers. Movies have wide viewership across the world having both positive and negative effects on the viewers. It is argued that children and youth easily imitate characters of movies (Dubow et al., 2007). Their exposure to aggression in movies such as murder and rape affect them negatively and they learn violent behavior (Kramer, 2011). Youth are more susceptible toward violence as compared to adults because they imitate characters from movies in their lives significantly. While aggression is part of movies everywhere, however, in Pashtu movies, it is more frequently shown as compared to other movies in the world (Funk et al., 2004).

Bollywood and Hollywood movies portray “polite and constructive messages” as compared to Pashtu movies. However, Pashtu movies often show violence which is not the part of Pashtun culture. Violence can be seen in the culture of Pashtun, however, what is depicted in Pashtu movies can be rarely seen in day-to-day interactions of Pashtuns (Rehman, 2016). The nomenclature of the Pashtu movies is mostly based on violence for instance, *Khandani Badmaash* (Familial Crook), *Dushmani* (Enmity), *Bewaqaof* (Fool), *Sharabi* (Drunker), *Wehshi Badmaash* (Cruel Crook), *Ujrati* (Contract killer), *Charsi* (the person who takes hasheesh), *Mastay Jenakai* (Hot girls), *Gandagir* (the person who act against the norms of the society), *Baghawat* (Rebellion), *Zama Toora* (My bravery) and *Za Baghee Yem* (I am a rebellious). The names of these movies, taken as examples, depict violence and aggression and legitimize violence in society. Such names of the Pashtun movies usually attract the youth.

The hero loves a girl and strives to get the girl by hook or by crook in Pashtu movies. The hero perpetuates violence for this purpose which is celebrated and symbolized as a sign of bravery in Pashtu movies. The heroes of these movies start aggression without taking into account the consequences of his actions for his family (Javid, 2013). A Kalashnikov is mostly carried by the hero in Pashto movies and presented as a symbol of Pashtun culture. A hero has a thick mustache and is presented as an extremely violent man with everybody scared from him. A person

who carries a Kalashnikov and having thick moustache in Pashtun movies symbolizes a brave and aggressive man in Pashtu movies. The villain drinking wine and picking up girls at gunpoint with use of force always makes mockery of law like abusing police in police stations. When the children watch these movies, they try to imitate and adopt the same attitude and characters of these actors and imagine themselves heroes in real life (Zeb, 2016). The frequent depiction of aggression in Pashtu movies increases the susceptibility of children and youth to violence. They try to resolve their problems in a way what they watch in the movies. Peaceful negotiation and mediation by *Jirga*⁴ is actually not depicted in the Pashtu movies to positively socialize the youth and children (Rehman, 2016).

In this regard, the story of Satana Gul, a young Afghan refugee living in the suburbs of Peshawar killed his sister when she applied for admission in a university program without his permission even though he was younger than her. Gul accepted that he was inspired from Pashtu movies in which the villain had done the same. Similarly, another young boy killed his cousin in Charsadda over an old land dispute. According to reports, after committing the crime, Khan Wali proudly claimed that his act was based on the experience of watching Pashto movies. He argued that only guns can settle disputes because court litigation and the *Jirga* only favor one party and discriminates against the other (Shinwari, 2012). Hence, this study explains the violent impact of Pashtu movies on children and youth and also its effects on the Pashtun society and culture.

Objectives of the Study

- To explain violence in Pashtu movies and its impact on the behaviour of youth in Pashtun society
- To explain the violent impact of Pashtu movies on the Pashtun society.

Methodology

Quantitative techniques were selected for this study according to the nature of the study. Purposive sampling technique was used for the selection of respondents. It was unknown to the researchers as to who watch Pashtu movies regularly among the youth. Therefore, a purposive sampling technique was selected for the completion of

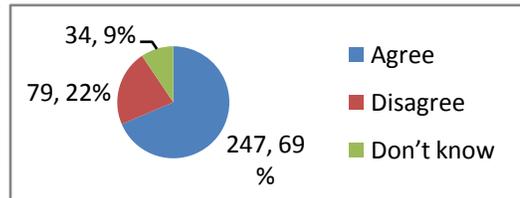
⁴Jirga is a Pashto term and it is a traditional assembly of leaders that makes decisions by consensus. It is conducted to settle disputes among the Pakhtun people but to a lesser extent among other nearby groups that have been influenced by Pakhtuns. Most criminal cases are handled by a tribal *Jirga* rather than by law or police.

this study. Data were collected from 360 respondents who were regular viewers of Pashtu movies. Universe of the study was Peshawar city where there are most of the popular cinemas and wherein Pashtu movies are displayed. The primary data were collected through questionnaire and included all the relevant options. Some of the respondents were unable to understand the options of questions, therefore, an interview schedule was used to collect data from them. The data were analysed through Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS) software. The quantitative data were analyzed for Uni-variate analysis in order to present the data in terms of frequency and percentage. To show the association between dependent and independent variable, the Chi-square test was applied for the Bi-variate analysis in the light of this statistical formula.

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \sum_{j=1}^c \frac{(O_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$$

**Analysis of the Pashtu Movies’ Violent Impact on the Youth
Youth Inspiration from the Deviant Action of Heroes in Pashtu Movies**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	247	68.6
Disagree	79	21.9
Don’t know	34	9.4
Total	360	100.0

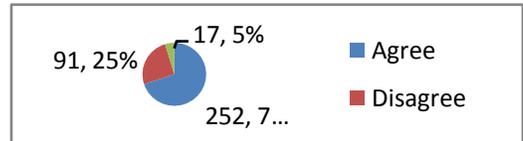


Explanation

The data in the above table shows the perception of the respondents about the deviant actions of heroes and villains in the Pashtu movies. A majority of the respondents are inspired and endorsed their actions in Pashtu movies. They are agreed that their exposure to Pashtu movies brought negative changes in their attitude and perceptions. It is found that youth imitate their actions and it affects them negatively. However, 21.9% disagreed and they were not inspired from the deviant actions of heroes in Pashtu movies.

Romanticizing Aggressive Behaviour in Pashto Movies

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	252	70.0
Disagree	91	25.3



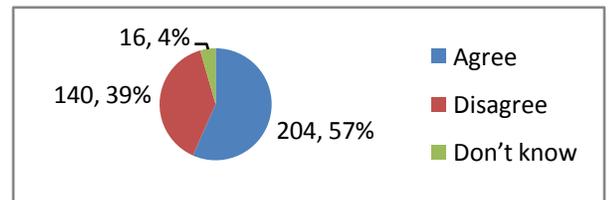
Don't know	17	4.7
Total	360	100.0

Explanation

The Pashtu movies idealized aggressive and violent behaviour. The respondents were asked about the depiction of violent actions in Pashtu movies. Majority of the respondents agreed that Pashtu movies portrayed violent actions ideally and romanticised them which inspired significant number of youths. In the real life they also follow dialogues of Pashtu movies and try to resolve every matter through violence and violate state laws. Moreover, 91 respondents being 25.3% disagreed with this and they believed that they did not follow it in their real lives. However, significant number of respondents believed that Pashtu movies romanticised violent behaviour.

Pashto Movies Increase Youth Susceptibility towards Violence

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	204	56.7
Disagree	140	38.9
Don't know	16	4.4
Total	360	100.0

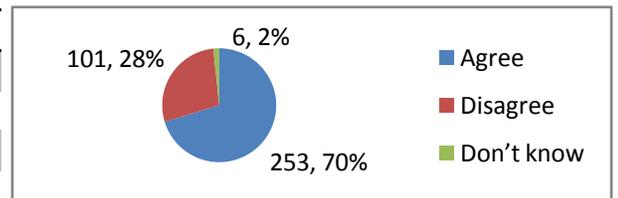


Explanation

The regular youth viewers of Pashtu movies are more susceptible towards violence. Majority of the respondents 56.7% agreed that regular viewers take it seriously and they are more prone towards violence in the real life. The data justify that the depiction of violence in Pashtu movies increases the susceptibility of youth towards violence. However, 38.9% disagreed with this statement and they believed that movies did not increase the youth susceptibility towards violence.

Youth Inspired from Pashto Movies Generate Family Disputes

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	253	70.3
Disagree	101	28.1
Don't know	6	1.7
Total	360	100.0

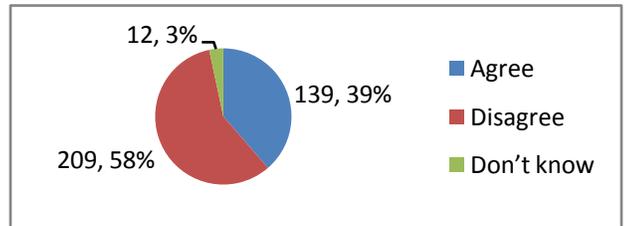


Explanation

The data revealed that youth inspired from the Pashtu movies in majority cases generate family disputes. They show aggression over small and simple issues which create conflicts both in inter and intra family. Majority of the respondents 70.3% were agreed that youth often imitate an aggressive behaviour from Pashtu movies which threaten the family norms and the ethics of society. The parents are unable to stop their young sons or daughters and in majority cases it increases family disputes and social violence. Moreover, only short number of respondents 28.1%disagreed and they believed that family disputes occurred over other issues.

Reflection of Movies Dialogue in Youth Daily Conversation

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	139	38.6
Disagree	209	58.1
Don't know	12	3.3
Total	360	100.0

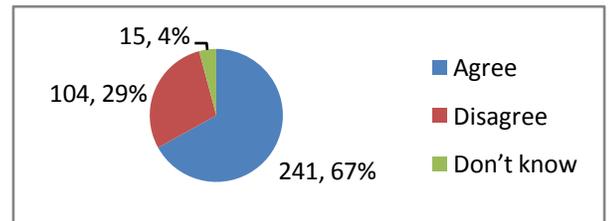


Explanation

The youth imitate the violent and immoral dialogues of Pashtu movies in their daily interactions. It more often than not causes conflict among them. In this regard, the above data show that 39 percent agreed that they followed the dialogues of Pashtu movies in their daily life. However, majority of them disagreed with the statement and they believed that they followed them but not seriously and only for humour. However, the youth who were actually inspired from the Pashtu movies reflect it in their real life which creates conflicts not only among them but also causing family disputes.

Pashtu Movies Impart Violence into Mind of Youth

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	241	66.9
Disagree	104	28.9
Don't know	15	4.2
Total	360	100.0



Explanation

Pashtu movies inculcate violence into the minds of youth who regularly watch Pashtu movies. The youth got exposure to new form of violence in Pashtun movies and they internalize the violent character of heroes. In this regard, data show that majority of the respondents, 66.9%, agreed that gradually the youth inculcate violence which is depicted in Pashtu movies regularly. They adopt violence in the practical life which badly affected their personality. Only 28.9% disagreed that they inculcate violence into the minds of the youth.

Pashtu Movies Violent Impact on Youth Behavior

S no	Statement	Response	Promotion of Violence			Total
			Agree	Disagree	Don't know	
1	Youth Inspiration from the Depiction of Deviant Action of Heroes in Pashtu Movies	Agree	247(68.6)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	247(68.6)
		Disagree	48(13.3)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	79(21.9)
		Don't know	34(9.4)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	34(9.4)
		Total	329(91.4)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	360(100)
2	Romanticizing Aggressive Behaviour in Pashto Movies	Agree	221(61.4)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	252(70.0)
		Disagree	91(25.3)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	91(25.3)
		Don't know	17(4.7)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	17(4.0)
		Total	329(91.4)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	360(100)
3	Pashto Movies Increase Youth Susceptibility towards Violence	Agree	201(55.8)	3(0.8)	0(0.0)	204(56.7)
		Disagree	128(35.6)	12(3.3)	0(0.0)	140(38.9)
		Don't know	0(0.0)	9(2.5)	7(1.9)	16(4.4)
		Total	329(91.4)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	360(100)
4	Youth Inspired from Pashto Movies Generate Family Disputes	Agree	253(70.3)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	253(70.3)
		Disagree	76(21.1)	34(6.7)	1(0.3)	101(28.1)
		Don't know	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	6(1.7)	6(1.7)
		Total	329(91.4)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	360(100)

		Total	329(91.4)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	360(100.0)
5	Reflection of Movies Dialog in Youth Daily Conversation	Agree	108(30.0)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	139(38.6)
		Disagree	209(58.1)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	209(58.1)
		Don't know	12(3.3)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	12(3.3)
		Total	329(91.4)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	360(100.0)
6	Pashto Movies Inculcate Violence into Mind of Youth	Agree	241(66.9)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	241(66.9)
		Disagree	88(24.4)	16(4.4)	0(0.0)	104(28.9)
		Don't know	0(0.0)	8(2.2)	7(1.9)	15(4.2)
		Total	329(91.4)	24(6.7)	7(1.9)	360(100.0)

Explanation

The data in the above table show that significant association can be seen between depiction of violence in Pashtu movies and aggressive behavior in youth. The data show that the viewer's imitate aggressive character of heroes and villain in Pashtu movies. Youth inspired from Pashtu movies applied it in their practical life. The youth inspiration from such kind of roles leads them towards violence and generated family disputes. Family disputes instigate violence which undermines the peace of the society. In this regard, the primary data show a highly significant ($p=0.000$) association between deviant role of heroes and villain and personality of viewers. The youth's inspiration from deviant character which is depicted in Pashtu movies negatively affected their personality development. They learn violent behaviour from Pashtu movies which not only affects their personality negatively but also turning them into a potential threat for the peace of the society. Movies have a significant influence on real-life aggression and hence movies' violent effects can be seen in the behaviour of youth more visibly (Bushman and Anderson, 2001). Moreover, depiction of violence also inculcates violent traits into the personality of youth. Most of the characters portrayed in Pashtu movies look like abnormal. The exaggeration of violence in Pashtu movies attract youth who start thinking to apply it in their real life.

Pashtu movies fuel violence because violence is presented as an ideal behaviour in it. Instigating violence is significantly ($p=0.006$) associated with

aggressive behaviour depicted in Pashtu movies as an ideal behaviour. Youth susceptibility towards violence increases as a result of watching Pashtu movies. Highly significant ($p=0.000$) association can be seen in the youth's susceptibility towards violence and violence in Pashtu movies. The scholarly works of (Bushman & Huesmann, 2001) explored that electronic media and especially movies portrayed violence as an ideal behavior. It increases youth's and children's susceptibility towards violence and children and youth are more prone to easily adopt the violent character in their practical life. Therefore, among the most affected population are children and youth because they easily imitate the violent character of movies.

Moreover, the youth who are inspired from Pashtu movies often generate family disputes due to their irresponsible behaviour. The primary data show significant ($p=0.000$) association between the Pashtu movies and family disputes in Pashtun society. Youth inspiration from Pashtu movies lead to family disputes who do not try to resolve the family matters with negotiation and discussions. They want to resolve every matter in the way what the heroes do in the Pashtu movies. However, it cannot resolve the family issues in real life and generate various family disputes. According to Berger (2005) movies increase communal violence and family disputes. People who are inspired from the movies try to follow it in the practical life which increases the communal violence. Television or movies more often than not promote violence in the different parts of the world. Parents are unable to tackle peacefully the youth who are inspired from movies and do not take the norms and advise of the parents seriously.

Moreover, the youth inspired from Pashtu movies are considered more aggressive as compared to others. They imitate the dialogues from the Pashtu movies and follow them in the daily conversation which not only does not look decent but also causes conflicts among them. In this regard, the primary data show significantly ($p=0.000$) association between the imitation of Pashtu movie dialogues and their depiction in the daily interactions of youth. Majority of the youth who are inspired from the aggressive conversation of heroes and villain follow it in their daily interactions. Their aggressive behaviour in public places often creates conflicts which undermine the peace of whole society. A difference can be seen in the behaviour of youth and children who got exposure to the violent movies (Trend, 2007). The language of those children and youth is more violent as compared to children and youth who do not like to watch violent movies. The children and youth who got

exposure to violent movies are very difficult for the parents to deal with in peaceful way.

Pashtun movies also inculcate violence into the mind of children and youth which they cannot observe in the daily life. The primary data show significant association ($p=0.000$) between the new forms of violence and Pashtu movies. Mangwera, Wadesango & Kurebwa (2013) have also observed that television, movies, and music are powerful learning tools and highly influential media. They help to educate and guide the children and adolescent. The repeated violence and aggression are somewhat disastrous for them. Children are taught now-a-days more about the crimes and violence. Most of the movies introduce new ways of crimes and violence which the young viewers easily adopt.

Conclusions

It is concluded that Pashtu movies have significant influence on the youth's behaviour. It is found that youth and children easily imitate the violent character of heroes and villains. Pashtu movies depict violence in a way which conveys the idea that everything can be resolved through violence. It is revealed that depiction of violence in Pashtu movies increases youth's susceptibility towards violence. Moreover, it is also found that youth who are inspired from the violent characters of heroes often generate family disputes. They do not resolve issues through discussion but rather resort to resolving every issue with force and violence which often generate violence and family disputes. It is also revealed that Pashtun movies depict violence as an ideal behaviour and the youth and children who got exposure to these movies adopt violent behaviour.

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