

ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF SOCIALLY VIOLENT MOVIES ON VIEWERS

Dr U Amaleshwari

Director, School of Management

Dwaraka Doss Govardhan Doss Vaishnav College Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Kethampatti Kesavan Anaikomagan

II MBA, School of Management

Dwaraka Doss Govardhan Doss Vaishnav College Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Abstract

This particular research tries to understand the impact of socially violent movies. Indian cinema has been home to socially violent movies that have long been a subject of debate in society regarding their influence on viewers' psychological and behavioural responses. This study explores how exposure to such violent content in films affects audiences and their perceptions, emotional states, and potential behavioural changes. By using a mixed-methods approach, this research further examines factors such as aggression, desensitization, fear, and cognitive shifts among viewers upon watching movies. Some of the key findings suggest that repeated exposure to violent films may contribute to increased aggression, diminished sensitivity to violence, and altered social attitudes. The study concludes with recommendations for media producers and policymakers to balance creative freedom with responsible content dissemination. Also on how content impacts the audience irrespective of the genre whereas socially violent movies have been an experience that is left to audiences to view and perceive in the way they want.

Keywords: *Movies, Violent movies, Viewer perception, Aggression, Desensitization, Media influence, Behavioural impact, Indian Movies, Socially violent, Social, Filmmakers and Content.*

Introduction

Whenever it comes to portrayal of violence in all genres of movies from then and now it has been a widely discussed topic in media studies and psychology as it has a debate sparking curiosity built around it. The portrayal of violence is not just limited to action but the way the dialogues and screenplay are written.

Films often depict aggressive and violent scenarios, raising concerns about their psychological and social effects on viewers. The viewer discretion is not properly followed. While some may argue that violent content is a form of artistic expression and entertainment, others believe that prolonged exposure may influence individuals' attitudes and behaviours.

Understanding the real impact of socially violent movies is crucial to assessment of their effects on different demographic groups. This study aims to analyse on how violent cinematic in various languages shapes the way audience think, respond and take things in their own hands. There is a shift in their response and behaviour towards this portrayal. Many of the movies which started out as another genre during its promotional material is the one who leads or say misleads to the socially violent movies.

Socially violent movies are films that depict intense themes of aggression, social unrest, crime, or psychological turmoil. These movies often explore issues like gang violence, class struggles, racial tensions, political uprisings, or the impact of violence on individuals and society. They can be thought-provoking, controversial, and sometimes even disturbing, but they often serve as a mirror to real-world conflicts.

Themes in Socially Violent Movies

1. **Gangs Oriented and Street-Based Violence** – Films depicting organized crime, drug peddling, mafia wars, and urban conflicts. (Reference of Example of Movies: *City of God*, *Menace II Society*)
2. **Political and Social Unrest** – Revolutions, protests, and government oppression. (Reference of Example of Movies: *V for Vendetta*, *The Battle of Algiers*)
3. **Psychological and Domestic Violence** – Personal struggles, abuse, or breakdowns leading to violence. (Reference of Example of Movies : *Joker*, *Taxi Driver*)
4. **Dystopian and Futuristic Violence** – Societies where violence is normalized. (Reference of Example of Movies: *A Clockwork Orange*, *The Purge*)
5. **Racial and Ethnic Conflicts** – Examining racial discrimination and violent repercussions. (Reference of Example of Movies: *American History X*, *Do the Right Thing*)

These are the Impact of Socially Violent Movies in Today's World -

- **To raise an awareness** – Highlighting the real-world issues like poverty, oppression, and crime in urban side of the world.
- **To spark a debate** – Encouraging discussions on social justice, violence, and reform for all but more so for women .
- **Sometimes may influence behaviour** – There is a perceived argument by those critiquing that these violent movies inspire and instigate real life violence.
- **To possess artistic and cinematic Value** – Often showcasing powerful storytelling aligning with great acting and on-point direction.

Literature Review

The Visual Content of Violent Scenes in Films; and Their Impact on Society

(Assist. Prof. Dr. Marwa Abd-Ellatif Elmahdy Khafagy Assistant Professor – Faculty Of Applied Arts - Helwan University – Egypt Dr.Marwa.Khafagy@Gmail.Com)

Social changes occur due to the various factors; whether cultural, economical or political; that affect human societies, on the other hand; art in general is a prime expressive tool and a communication method; and cinema is the most popular and capable method that can reach all cultural and social levels, so it is regarded to be a main cause for these social changes, especially the negative ones. Cinema is the art most capable of addressing audience in a language they can understand and react to; as it can reach different types of audience with various cultural, social or age levels; there is the rub; cinema is an important; yet dangerous tool, as it is one of the basic sources that form social values and habits, whether positively or negatively. The emerge of cinematic films and their wide popularity was followed by the interest of psychologists and sociologists in its influence; on their audience and on the society; because cinema is an audible and visual art, thus; it is an important tool for social changes and the development of cultural awareness; or vice versa; so it can be used as a destructive method and become a dangerous and misleading force. Despite the prevailing idea that cinema films are an entertaining tool

Research Methodology

This study employs a quantitative way of approach to analyse the impact of socially violent movies on viewers. Data was collected through an online survey in the form of a G-Form distributed to 200

respondents aged between 18-40 years, who regularly watch action or crime- thriller movies with violent content.

The questionnaire measured aggression levels of the viewers, responses to the emotions displayed by the viewers, perception shifts after viewing a film, and desensitization tendencies. Associated with psychology. Statistical analyses were conducted using SPSS software to examine correlations between movie exposure and psychological effects. Also to examine the data pertaining to the

Results and Discussion

Descriptive Statistics

The majority of respondents (60%) reported watching violent movies at least once a week. Males accounted for 55% of the participants, while females comprised 45%. Respondents aged 18-25 exhibited the highest movie consumption rates.

Correlation Analysis

A strong positive correlation ($r = 0.702$, $p < 0.05$) was found between frequent exposure to violent movies and increased aggression levels. Respondents who regularly watched violent content demonstrated higher tendencies toward aggressive thoughts and behaviours.

Regression Analysis

Regression analysis indicated that frequency of exposure to violent content ($\beta = 0.47$, $p < 0.05$) and identification with violent characters ($\beta = 0.38$, $p < 0.05$) were significant predictors of aggression. Emotional desensitisation ($\beta = 0.31$, $p < 0.05$) was also observed as an influential factor.

T-Test and ANOVA

A t-test revealed a significant gender-based difference in emotional responses ($p = 0.024 < 0.05$), with females reporting higher fear and anxiety levels than males. ANOVA analysis demonstrated a significant variation in aggression levels based on frequency of exposure ($F = 6.78$, $p < 0.05$), suggesting that higher exposure is associated with increased aggression.

Findings and Interpretations

- Repeated exposure to violent movies is associated with increased aggression and hostility.
- Desensitization to violence is evident among frequent viewers, leading to reduced emotional sensitivity.
- Female viewers reported heightened fear responses, whereas male viewers exhibited higher aggression tendencies.
- Cultivation effects contribute to altered perceptions of social reality, increasing fear- based worldviews.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study highlights the significant impact of socially violent movies on viewer perceptions and behaviour. The findings suggest that while violent films today serve as a major form of entertainment, they also influence potential aggression, desensitization, and fear responses among audiences. Media

creators and policymakers should thereby be responsible in making their content for their films considering the implications of violent content and implementing the measures. Viewer discretion is must with content warnings and age restrictions to make sure there are no consequential negative effects post the viewing. Future research studies should further explore on how long-term psychological impacts and the role of individual differences in media influence with the world of films and its viewers.

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