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PRAPAIRAT WERAPONGSET : AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IN DRAMATIC PROGRAMS ON TELEVISION . THESIS ADVISERS : DUANGPORN KAMNOONWATANA, M.A. APINYA BUASUANG, M.A. PORNTIP USUPARAT, M.A. 166 PAGES ISBN 974-662-054-1

Dramatic programs on television are highly influential within the mass media because of their realism and the entertainment they provide. The audience which is the most effected by these programs is children and juveniles. There are many studies that have established a correlation between children watching aggressive behavior on television and then imitating the behavior in real life.

This study was intended to find the quantity of 16 types of aggressive behaviors which appear in 4 kinds of dramatic programs on television; Thai drama programs, childrens' programs, foreign series, and movie programs. All programs were broadcasted on channel 3, channel 5, channel 7, and channel 9 and one week of data collection was conducted for each channel.

This study found that broadcasting time of dramatic programs took up one fifth of all broadcasting time. The highest level of broadcasting time was given to Thai drama programs, followed in declining order by foreign series, movie programs, and childrens' programs. For the broadcasting of dramatic programs for each channel it appeared that channel 3 broadcasted the most, followed by channel 7, channel 5, and channel 9.

The broadcasting time of aggressive behavior which appeared in 4 dramatic programs on all the television stations was 6.1% of all broadcasting time. The frequency of aggressive behavior shots averaged once every 2.3 minutes and appeared regularly all day. Aggressive verbal behavior happened more frequently than aggressive action. Aggressive behavior in dramatic programs was most frequent on channel 9, followed by channel 3, channel 7, and channel 5. The dramatic programs in which the most aggressive behavior occurred were childrens' programs, followed by movie programs, foreign series, and Thai drama programs. The type of aggressive behavior that appeared the most frequently was aggressive verbal behavior. Physical aggressive violence (including homicide) was found mostly in movie programs.

This study showed that dramatic programs aired on 4 television stations contained a high quantity of aggressive behavior. If a policy is formalated for both production and presentation of television content and for suitable viewing times for different age groups within the audience, it may contribute towards a decrease in the negative impact of television violence.