The Role of Advances In Industry and Media In Crime Prevention

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ABSTRACT

Increasing rate of coverage by media and the changes due to communication revolution and its impact on social, economic, political, and cultural life, is the cause of concern for harmful effects they may have for people’s lives. Crime is a phenomenon including a great deal of social, economic, psychological, legal factors and etc. Media can be the messenger of peace and humanism, however at the same time it can bring violence into the society. The current research titled “The role of advances in industry and media in crime prevention” is of a descriptive-analytic kind which is conducted in a library approach and data gathering tool in this study was notes taken from different resources. In this research the way media can affect crime prevention and different long/short term legal and non-legal programs are evaluated. This paper suggests that media can affect the frequency of crimes through promotion of a healthy life’s pattern and in some cases are positively effective while being negatively effective in some other cases.

INTRODUCTION

In the 21st century the role of media and modern communication technologies are more and more emphasized. Many experts believe that media plays an important role in teaching people who are capable of committing a crime. In the other hand, media can promote concepts in society without preparing the right background for understanding them. Therefore media are harmful in this standpoint. However, media as a fast changing phenomenon is more useful for the society and its governors. So, media can play a teaching role to prevent citizens from committing a crime and on the other hand legal justice, especially police can use media to encourage people prevent crimes and make a positive image of its performance in people’s minds. The main purpose to this study is to explain the double role of the media in prevention and occurrence of the crime on one hand and how they affect thoughts and beliefs on the other hand. Determining the positive and negative effects of the media on society could be helpful in making grounds for beneficial use of media in crime prevention and avoiding its harmful consequences. Whereas human needs are various and human societies are complicated, the role of media is studied in so many different ways.

1- Explanation of crime prevention concepts and theoretical concepts of crime prevention through the media

1-1 Crime prevention; Crime prevention is a kind of policy or action which reduces the consequences of crime or removes it completely. It is divided into different aspects under different patterns. According to those patterns there are six kinds of crime prevention which are studied below

1-1-1 over prevention; over crime prevention consists of traditional and modern over prevention
1-1-1-1 traditional over prevention; it is considered in five articles namely; action and reaction prevention, prevention of crime by kids and adults, public and private prevention, active and passive prevention, and prevention in accordance with medical model.
1-1-1-1-1 action and reaction prevention; it is a traditional view on crime which is in fact a reaction to crimes. Punishment is a legal action but it should be noticed that non-legal actions are more effective in this regard. Two general classifications in crime prevention are legal or reaction prevention and non-legal or action prevention. As mentioned before, punishment is a legal or reaction prevention which is considered after a crime is committed. Meanwhile, non-legal or action prevention does not merely consider the crime. Crime-oriented and reaction standpoint is inevitable but it must be mentioned that criminology is concerned with the cause and why a crime is committed and why an individual tends toward committing a crime.
Institutions cooperate based on modern methods of crime prevention. In this direction, as mentioned in Islamic

... and fining in a legal way [5]. It seems that achieving this goal is not possible unless all adjuster ideologies can be legalized according to the meaning of prevention and can use the idea of discrediting, the motivation is criminal, and environment matters and unsaved victims are in danger. In fact, all the institutions cooperate based on modern methods of crime prevention. In this direction, as mentioned in Islamic

... and antisocial criminals, and closing places which are capable prostitution are of this type in our country and legally are closer to criminology [2].

... crime prevention initiatives are in the very hands of the criminal and the type of the action depends on the crime like notices which are usually warnings by the police to reduce the potential of the committing a crime and its effects [3]. In contrary to this type, active prevention has the initiative in his hand and acts aggressively which is seen in numerous countries. This type can include fulfilling the need for entertainment and filling the leisure time for teens that have the potential to commit a crime.

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Republic of Iran Broadcasting, media is obligated to remove the grounds for crimes and try to promote preventive policies and apply approaches useful in this regard.

1-1-2-1 the specialized nature of crime prevention by the media; it can simply be said that the set of policies taken by the media to reduce the dangers of criminal thoughts and informative nature of the media for saving the lives of the victims is a specialized prevention. Also reinforcement of hope and trust in the society and paying attention to spiritual and mental needs of people (articles 1-12 in the general basic policy of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting 1361/4/17) are among the fundamental approaches which can prevent crimes through actions taken in this regard [6].

2-1-2-1 the role of the media in changing and evolution of the society; the 21st century was named the communication era by educational, scientific, and cultural department of the UN. Globalization and detachment of the boundaries puts emphasis on the importance and necessity of the function of media and its audience. In any science, theories are the basis to understand the elements and relations dominating that science and are inevitably necessary to learn for those who want to understand that science. Without understanding the elements and factors building a science it is impossible to evaluate and predict the direction of the science. Communication indeed is a science included in this idea. Improvements in the field of communication in many different aspects has forced many experts to name this century as the communication century [7].

2-2-1 criminologist standpoint monitoring media prevention; this course is explained in 5 chapters, first theoretical criminology and media prevention, second the function of media in long/short-term prevention, third the role of media in social and postural prevention, fourth the role of media in defensive and surviving prevention, and fifth the function of media in passive and active prevention.

1-2-2-1 theoretical criminology and media prevention; in preventive criminology there should be a basis for each plan. Preventive plan is not separated from theoretical criminology. The two theories which can be the basis for some preventive programs are 1- abnormality theory (normality gap) and 2- social chaos theory, the two of which are elaborated below.

1- Normality gap (Morton); according to this theory abnormality can be prevented through contents and plans which are consistent with social realities and through promoting cultures and social means, people can be encouraged and motivated to stop committing social crimes.

2- Social chaos theory (Sutherland); Sutherland believes that a human being belongs to many social lives in each era of their life but their own interest is focused on one of them more than the others and if this highlighted corner of their life is against the law and justice, instead of socialization, the person becomes anti-social. In this regard the media can change the programs and enrich them to stop this abnormality.

2-2-2-1 interactive criminology and media prevention;

In interactive criminology the dominating belief is that the behavior by the society and its institutions including the justice department, against an individual predicts the way that individual behaves toward the police and the justice department. It means that the behavior by criminals is the result of the behavior they have been subjected to. A person behaves as the society expects them to behave. The society can see itself in our behavior. For instance people who are condemned by fault or for the first time are faced the phenomenon of being labeled as a criminal and inevitably they start acting like a criminal.

2- The functions of the media in crime prevention

1-2 the function of the media in crime prevention

It is worth mentioning that criminologists divide the crime into many aspects. Some of these classifications include triple prevention, long/short-term prevention, passive and active prevention, penal and non-penal prevention, justice and law enforcement prevention, public and private prevention, and social and postural prevention. One of the most important classifications is Kaylan classification of triple prevention. In this type of classification, three main methods of prevention are considered which are adopted from Epidemiology theory in medical sciences [8]. Prevention plan uses a set of strategies through some stages. Kaylan believes that prevention consists of three levels of primary, secondary, and tertiary.

1-1-2-2 the function of the media in non-penal prevention

The study of crime and criminals proves the causative relationship between the crime and the causes and affecting factors. Criminologists suggest that “any physical, psychological, and social condition that can cause crime or increase it, is a criminal factor, however, the effects are not absolute but they are completely certain in any case [9]. Therefore the society must take necessary steps in the way of providing safety, and must fight against the phenomenon of crime, and criminal.

1-1-1-2 the role of the media in primary and secondary prevention; the media has different roles in primary and secondary prevention which are elaborated in two parts below.

1-1-1-1-2 primary media prevention; theoretically, this stage includes actions, policies, and plans which try to change and control the criminal factors in the physical and social environment to improve the situation in order to reduce the crime. In this stage the emphasis is on the fact that people must not tend toward committing crimes. The main goal in this stage is to improve life conditions to reduce the criminal tendency in individuals
and to show the bad image of the crime. The positive functions of the media are: informing and warning, importance in the field of social immunity. The media can also be helpful in making people sensitive to crime sociology of law and punishment, social control, showing the bad image of the crime, and exploration role opportunities, especially in economic crimes which are hard to reveal, for crime which is in turn of a great identify and prevent the crime in early stages [14]. The media is well capable of this function and can reveal the

2-1-1-2 the role of the media in long/short-term prevention; the media has different roles and functions in long/short-term prevention which are explained in two parts below.

1-2-1-2 short-term media prevention; short prevention is the name for a set of approaches which are conducted in a short period of time, like law enforcement, providing light for streets and alleys and public places, setting preventive penal laws, instituting social help centers, building appropriate spaces for leisure, supporting kids who are subjected to abuse and unappropriated behavior, destructing and closing places where are potentially criminal, preventing the broadcast of aggressive programs on cable... in order to reduce the opportunity for crimes to be committed. The purpose to this plan is to take quick preventive action in order to control the crime and build the context for planning [11].

2-2-1-2 long-term media prevention; basically long-term prevention is used for mechanisms which are conducted over a long period of time to reduce the opportunity of crime in the future. For example improving the accessibility for all the people to enough and appropriate education, setting some general policies in order to produce job opportunity for everyone, holding some family classes to improve the life skills among the families, enforcing the role of the media through enrichment of the content of educational programs, reducing the economic gap among different levels of society and achieving social justice.

3-1-1-2 the functions of the media in postural and social prevention; the most common classification of prevention is social and postural prevention. In social and postural prevention, the media functions in many different ways which are considered in two parts below.

1-3-1-1-2 social media prevention, social prevention is intervention in public and personal environments and identification of criminal factors and organization of some actions to channelize and lead the effects of these factors by neutralizing them or removing them totally.

2-3-1-1-2 postural media prevention; in this type of prevention the target is the situation before the crime is committed in which disconnected the transition from thought to action. Postural prevention emerges in two shapes: 1- crime prevention through actions with the goal of crime prevention and 2- prevention of being subjected to crime through immunization of properties and lives of people. The media is indeed an effective factor in crime prevention which can affect the social prevention through avoiding stimulating contents and postural prevention through avoiding contents which facilitate the crime [2].

4-1-1-2 the role of the media in passive prevention and survival; the role of the media in passive prevention and survival can be considered in different ways. It is explained in two parts below.

1-4-1-1-2 passive prevention; prevention through fear, edification, and banning the criminals

2-4-1-1-2 survival prevention; action in the order of recruitment of the criminal in which the criminal is released from the consequences of the crime and consequently they are released from the criminals’ life.

5-1-1-2 the functions of the media in passive and active prevention; the media has different functions in this regard which are studied separately below.

1-5-1-1-2 passive media prevention; passive prevention is in fact a kind of warning for the society to avoid becoming the victims of crime.

2-5-1-1-2 active media prevention; in this approach to prevent the crime positive actions are taken and ideas of society are brought to action.

2-1-2 the function of the media in penal prevention; penal prevention is important on two levels. First public prevention which is conducted through fear to prevent potential criminal from committing a crime and personal prevention which applies harsh punishments on criminals to make the criminal avoid the crime in the future. Currently these two aspects are focused on by the justice department and legislators [12].

The functions of the media can be seen and explained through these lenses.

1-2-1-2 news coverage of the police actions and its impact; the police cannot control and prevent the crime on its own unless it calls for cooperation of all people and this is possible through the media and informative role it can play in which the police can warn people and immunize them from becoming the victims of crime [13].

2-2-1-2 the positive role of the media in discovering and tracking the crime; the media can help authorities identify and prevent the crime in early stages [14]. The media is well capable of this function and can reveal the opportunities, especially in economic crimes which are hard to reveal, for crime which is in turn of a great importance in the field of social immunity. The media can also be helpful in making people sensitive to crime and to show the bad image of the crime. The positive functions of the media are; informing and warning, sociology of law and punishment, social control, showing the bad image of the crime, and exploration role
2-2-1-2 the role of the media in the trial and sentencing of offenders;
The role of the media in the trial and sentencing of offenders is explained in three parts below.
1-2-2-1-2 the role of the media in the coverage of open sessions of trial; open trial is the property of
accusatory system. In the past trials were held publicly [15]. In international documents and also in article 14 of
the international treaty of political and civic law publicity of the trial sessions, is accepted as a fact. In Iran also
in article 165 and 168 of Constitution the article 188 of A.D.K law trials are open session except the following
cases:
1 - Acts incompatible with chastity ethics
2 - Family Affairs and private lawsuits in the case of being asked by the parties
3- Public trial is detrimental to security and religious sentiments

In note 1 of the same article the meaning of being open is removing any barrier for anyone who wants to
attend the session. Therefore, if the session is being held closely due to one of the reasons above according to
clause 6 of article 6 and also the article 29 of the aforementioned law, publication of the negotiations is
forbidden and in the case of violence, the offender is taken action against according to the sanction law. This
action is considered as a crime and is taken action against according to Islamic law. According to what was said
if there is no barrier in the way of publication of open sessions, the media can publish the session. Although it
may have negative consequences, it can positively affect the society having preventive role and helping penal
sentences. It also improves general knowledge about the law and its performance.

2-2-2-1-2 real judicial reflection; according to unbiasedness principle in public affairs, all reflection must be
unbiased and favoritism must be avoided. This principle is completely applicable for the media which is in
charge of reflecting information and news. Generally the media including the radio and television which are
reflective of the reality are heavily responsible and must avoid reflecting contents which are not true or even are
not proved to be true yet. On the other hand this does not mean that the media must stop reflecting the new for it
is emphasized to reflect internal and external news considering that they must not reveal military secrets, they
must avoid accusing people, groups, and organizations, and they must avoid contents which are against ethics,
in order to break stereotype and exclusivity of the news. Obviously one of these aspects is reflecting penal
sentences which can heavily affect the phenomenon of crime through threatening the criminals.

3-2-2-1-2 publication of judicial sentences; it is well known that passive punishments cannot prevent
actions per se. the society must stay safe and immune against dangerous situations. Therefore, instuitive
thought is necessary beside the fear and suppression. Security and disciplinary measures are foreseen for this
purpose [16]. Taking a glimpse at articles 12 and 13 of the aforementioned law, beside precautionary measures
such as capturing dangerous tools and devices, precautionary guarantees, closing institution, deprivation from
guardianship and supervision, we see a case named sentence publication. Sentence publication aims returning
the dignity to a person whose innocence is proven, and also recognition of people of criminals in order to avoid
relating to them which can achieve through reflection in the media and can affect avoiding the crime and
avoiding becoming the victims of a crime.

3-2-1-2 the role of the media in execution of the sentence; in this chapter the role of the media in execution
of the crime is studied in three parts:
1-3-2-1-2 media coverage of the prison; according to the authorities in charge of prisons, in Iran prison have
the capacity to imprison 70-80 thousand prisoners. Meanwhile a population double these sizes are being held in
the prisons. The population crisis is one of the hardest and yet latent problems of the prisons in Iran. Some
diseases or micro-cultures like addiction and aids are started in the prison. These show the inflation of the
population of prisoners in our country. Therefore we must prevent the crime before it happens to reduce
financial and spiritual costs of crimes. In this regard, the media, like any other social control tool rises for the
fight against crimes and affects its own role in crime prevention.

2-3-2-1-2 media coverage of other punishments; punishments are to reduce the probability of the crime in
the future, but another basic effect is the effect it has on other people. The execution scene can negatively affect
the minds of people and the media can show the artificial scenes in the movies to build the basis of fear of the
crime in people’s minds while avoiding the bad effects the real scenes may have them [17].

3-2-2-1-2 The publication of judicial sentences; in constitution improving the public awareness of people is
emphasized for all the fields. The media can publish the name of the criminal under some conditions after they
are proven guilty thus complainants can be informed in order to pursuit their complaint.

3-1-2 limitations and barriers of crime prevention
First barrier is related to the crime itself, some crimes (homicide, terrorism) cannot be prevented through
the media and they must be reduced through punishment and suppression.
Second barrier is related to the person in who preventive measures are not effective; some people are
pervert by nature.
Third barrier is related to media prevention some of which are costly, like closing publications which in
turn is against Freedom of Expression and promotes fear like installing jamming towers.
Fourth barrier is related to human rights meaning that some prevention methods lead to limitations in information understanding which are against some human rights like filtering some websites or jamming some satellite channels.

**Conclusion:**

Nowadays regarding the continuity, extension, and velocity of media messages publication and variety and diversity of their content it is impossible to deny phenomenal power of this modern human event. It can clearly be seen that the cause of so many crimes is the media. The impact of media is more than other institution due to attractiveness and popularity and that is the reason why people are easily and quickly affected by this cause. If the content of the media contains criminal subjects whether in the form of stimulation or facilitation it can make people tend toward crimes. The results show that the media, on one hand (depending on how they reflect events and news) can intensify the feeling of not being safe, promote the crime and encourage people who are already capable of crimes toward committing crimes and on the other it can promote a healthy life’s pattern and can be the reason to feel safe. As it can be stimulator of crime or facilitator in that regard, the media can consider the thoughts and beliefs and use the approaches proposed by criminologists, economists, sociologists, and also police and justice department authorities to play a key role in crime prevention. For so many different reasons, the government must cooperate with civic communities and the media to perform the anti-crime programs. If people are not aware of alternative ways other than punishment they may be in favor of punishment. This can easily affect public policies of the society. Almost in every society the media reflect extreme crimes and media reflection of the crime is highly effective on public perception of the crime. However, obviously if the information is a little more mediated, people can be more supportive of preventive plans.

**Suggestions for future studies**

1- The media must perform on the basis of social interaction and use social psychology to consider the needs of the society to make the structures and combination of the programs more and more consistent with the cultural and social context of the society and personal characteristics of the people.

2- Since the role of the media in the phenomenon of crime is not ignorable, the media must enrich the beliefs through targeted programs to fight against the dominance of transnational media.

3- The media must try to reduce the tendency toward foreign media in teenagers using special networks publications for teens who are in the era of finding their identity.

4- The media can use penal law and environmental services, cultural and social programs to affect preventive policies in direction of promotion of self-control in the society.

**REFERENCES**


