

The Moderating Role of Parental Mediation in the Effects of Television Crime Shows on Juvenile Delinquency in Jordan

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Abstract

Objectives: The study aims to identify the impact of television (TV) crime shows on juvenile delinquency in Jordan and to examine the role of parental mediation as a moderating factor in this relationship. Additionally, it seeks to understand how demographic characteristics such as gender and socioeconomic conditions influence juvenile delinquency. Jordan faces a severe problem related to juvenile delinquency, and a review of current literature suggests that risky behaviors engaged in by adolescents who watch crime shows on TV may lead to juvenile offending.

Methods: Purposive sampling was used to collect data from 500 participants, and SPSS was employed to analyze the data and test the study hypotheses.

Results: The results indicated a significant relationship between TV crime shows and juvenile delinquency, with parental mediation moderating this relationship. The study also revealed gender differences in behavior related to juvenile delinquency, while family socioeconomic conditions did not show a significant impact.

Conclusions: This research highlights that much of the existing media research focuses on adolescent aggression. The findings will contribute valuable data to the growing body of research on juvenile delinquency. Additionally, the study will assist government and social agents in developing targeted strategies to reduce juvenile delinquency.

Keywords: Parental Mediation; TV Crime Shows; Juvenile Delinquency; Gender; Socioeconomic Conditions.

الدور الوسيط للوساطة الأبوية في تأثير برامج الجريمة التلفزيونية على الأحداث الجانحين في الأردن

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ملخص

الأهداف: تهدف هذه الدراسة التعرف إلى تأثير برامج الجريمة التلفزيونية على جنوح الأحداث في الأردن، وتأثير الوساطة الأبوية على هذه العلاقة بين المتغيرات، بالإضافة إلى معرفة دور الخصائص الديموغرافية، مثل: الجنس والظروف الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للأسر في جنوح الأحداث، إذ تعاني الأردن وبقية دول العالم من مشكلة خطيرة تتعلق بزيادة بجنوح الأحداث. ومن خلال مراجعة الأدبيات الحالية والدراسات السابقة تبين أنّ السلوكيات الخطرة التي يمارسها المراهقون الذين يشاهدون برامج الجريمة على شاشة التلفزيون تتطور إلى أحداث إجرامية في الواقع.

المنهجية: تم استخدام العينة العمدية لجمع البيانات من 500 مشارك، وتم استخدام برنامج التحليل الإحصائي (SPSS) لتحليل البيانات، واختبار فرضيات الدراسة.

النتائج: أظهرت النتائج أنّ هناك علاقة مهمة بين برامج الجريمة التلفزيونية وجنوح الأحداث في الأردن، وأنّ الوساطة الأبوية تخفف من هذه العلاقة، كما أظهرت أنّ هناك فروقاً بين الجنسين في السلوك بالنسبة لجنوح الأحداث، في حين لم يكن للظروف الاجتماعية والاقتصادية للأسرة أي فرق كبير في ذلك.

خلاصة الدراسة: خلصت هذه الدراسة إلى أنّ أغلب الأبحاث في مجال الإعلام ركزت على العدوان لدى المراهقين. وبالتالي، فإن نتائج هذه الدراسة ستوفر بيانات مهمة لمجموعة الأبحاث المتنامية حول انحراف الأحداث. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، ستجد الحكومة والجهات الفاعلة في المجتمع أنّ هذه الدراسة مفيدة في صياغة استراتيجية محددة للحد من انحراف الأحداث.

الكلمات الدالة: الوساطة الأبوية، برامج الجريمة التلفزيونية، الأحداث الجانحين، الجنس، الظروف الاجتماعية والاقتصادية.

Introduction

The phenomenon of delinquency and crime has been gradually increasing, especially among adolescents, recently, bringing some unsafe factors into society, and even causing serious harm (Delcea et al., 2019). antisocial behavior, such as teenage delinquency, in which some members of society engage is One of the nation-building challenges. This is because such activity can ultimately affect a country's infrastructure, financial stability, identity in culture, and general progress in society (Mohideen et al., 2016). Understanding adolescent delinquency's causes and personality traits is essential to prevent it.

Juvenile delinquency is a behavior that deviates from social norms and violates the law, and it has caused concern throughout society. Numerous studies demonstrate that different people who commit crimes have diverse reasons for doing so (Aizer & Currie, 2019). The most important variables that affect juvenile delinquency is TV crime shows. These programs display criminal content that prompts adolescents to imitate them, which leads to learning criminal behavior (Abdullah et al., 2016). In Jordan, watching TV crime shows is very popular among adolescents and youths (Mutahar et al., 2019). Adolescents spend a lot of time-consuming a wide range of media, especially TV. So they can also express themselves openly, and learn about ideas and concepts through the media (Gramacho, 2022). Recent evidence indicates that prolonged viewing of criminal content on TV contributes to an increase in harmful behaviors such as juvenile delinquency and violence (Gramacho, 2022).

TV shows with crime themes have a significant impact on juvenile crime. Adolescents who watch TV crime shows are more likely to behave violently and criminally (Abhishek & Balamurugan, 2024; Fischer et al., 2011; Ybarra et al., 2022). Studies conducted in the Arab world have drawn attention to the harmful effects of TV crime shows on the criminal behavior of young (AlHazzaa et al., 2023; Obaid et al., 2018). According to A recent study conducted in Jordan, exposure to media violence and crime is associated with violent and delinquent behavior among Jordanian adolescents (Eneizat et al., 2024). Therefore, the current study concentrates on the impact of TV crime shows on juvenile delinquency

Conversely, a growing body of research suggests that problems occurring during childhood can cause serious, diverse, and long-term negative consequences for adolescents (Duan et al., 2024). In every sphere of social interaction, including homes, neighborhoods, and educational institutions, violence spreads throughout society (Abdullah et al., 2016). Gender and socioeconomic circumstances greatly influence a person's personality traits. The probability of juvenile delinquency also increases due to these factors (Abdullah et al., 2016; Eneizat et al., 2023a). By taking these factors into account, it's also critical to look into the influence of gender and socioeconomic conditions to understand how they affect the criminal behavior of Jordanian adolescents.

Many studies in the field of crime have argued that juvenile delinquency and serious violence are not due to a single factor such as exposure to media and TV, but rather to several important factors surrounding individuals, such as family environment (Bushman & Anderson, 2015). According to De Pelsmacker et al. (2020), parental mediation is one of the most important critical predictors that lead to an increase in criminal activities among adolescents. It plays an important role in the socialization of individuals. Therefore, this study focuses on parental mediation as a moderator of the relationship between exposure to crime content in TV programs and adolescent delinquency.

Eneizat et al. (2023a) stated that although studies conducted on the negative impact of media, the body of literature still urgently needs more studies, especially in Jordan. In addition, this phenomenon is complex and therefore needs additional research. Many studies in the Jordanian context also focused on violent behavior and aggression and did not pay much attention to juvenile delinquency (Raffee et al., 2021), despite the increase in these delinquent behaviors among adolescents in the Jordanian context.

Therefore, this study seeks to identify the impact of TV crime shows on juvenile crimes. To identify harmful consequences that television TV and crime shows have on the behavior of adolescents; To determine the moderating role of parental mediation who influences adolescents' learning behavior for criminal behavior, and to investigate the impact of gender and socioeconomic conditions on adolescents' learning of criminal behavior. This article will specifically examine the relationships between exposure to TV crime shows and juvenile delinquency in Jordan, and generate hypotheses that explain these relationships.

Literature review

Crime Learning Behaviours

There has been an increase in media content in recent years that glorifies taking risks (Gramacho, 2022). The short-term effects of TV content that glorified risk significantly increased risky behavior (Gramacho, 2022). Fischer et al. (2011) investigated whether exposure to such media depictions increased their recipients' propensity for taking risks by conducting a meta-analysis with over 80,000 participants and 105 independent effect sizes across various research methods (correlational, experimental, and longitudinal). A favorable correlation between risk-taking behaviors and risk-positive feelings was discovered in media content (video games, movies, and TV) when combined (Ybarra et al., 2022).

Media use and its effects (movies and TV) on adolescent health and well-being have been a topic of research over the past 10 years (Ybarra et al., 2022). They began by painting a picture of media consumption patterns and then showed how these patterns were predicted and affected teens' mental health. Some studies in this area have investigated how exposure to violent TV content affects adolescent aggressive behavior, gender roles, and drug use (Ybarra et al., 2022). Considering the mounting evidence showing that teenage media consumption is linked to many potentially harmful behaviors, such as violence, and alcohol and cigarette use (Abhishek & Balamurugan, 2024).

Crime imitation activity is often thought to be rare, although it has not received enough research attention. Surette (2013) and Song et al. (2022) provide a more accurate estimate of the percentage of offenders at-risk people who report personal imitation crime histories to encourage study. Approximately one in four respondents reported a personal imitator crime history, according to the 10 study estimates taken as a whole (Surette, 2013). A significant portion of offenders and young people who are at risk have been found to exhibit imitation crime behavior (Surette, 2013; Song et al. 2022). Further investigation into this crime imitation behavior is warranted, and other related research questions are awaiting resolution.

Groups involved in juvenile delinquency are still in an ambiguous stage of growth. juvenile delinquents are an inherently unstable population who are prone to being influenced by imitation, negative social norms, and curiosity. As a result, they are more likely to replicate illegal events and criminal acts (Mbadu Muanda et al., 2018). The links between media and long-term behavioral insight effects and issues related to the development of teenagers have been extensively discussed. The majority of published research, though not all of them, states that media use is connected to the possibility for social learning analytics to recognize and predict media literacy abilities from media platforms (Prot et al., 2014; Wiedeman et al., 2015).

TV Crime Shows and Juvenile Delinquency

In general, several significant internal factors contribute to juvenile delinquency in addition to external ones, such as a lack of self-control and the effect of the media and social structures. To prevent crimes, society, educational institutions, and families all need to be fully involved (Song et al. 2022).

The impact of media on juvenile delinquency, including TV, action, music, video games, print media, sports, and the Internet, is a topic of intense discussion. These factors have a big impact on behavior and attitudes, especially in people under the age of 18 (Abhishek & Balamurugan, 2024). Given how much the media shapes views and behavior, it should come as no surprise that it is a contentious socialization component. It is not unexpected that these different media outlets indulge the audience's cravings for violence by enthusiastically creating violent TV series and films since our society seems to be driven by a violent appetite (Abdullah et al., 2016). Thus, there are negative consequences of prolonged exposure to TV crime shows.

According to studies that examined the relationship between violent TV and aggressive behavior among viewers, media violence content leads to the emergence of delinquency and violence in adolescents (see, Abhishek & Balamurugan, 2024; Bushman & Anderson, 2015). A study addressed the role of violent content in films and its impact on the violent behavior of adolescents in the Jordanian context. The results showed that media violence is among the main factors affecting the increase in aggressive behavior among adolescents (Eneizat et al., 2023b; Eneizat et al., 2023c).

Throughout history, there has been a substantial increase in both the amount and influence of the media. Throughout history, newspapers were the first mass media to be widely used. Radio, TV, and eventually computers followed (Bains,

2015). A multitude of media platforms, including both new and ancient ones like social media, iPads, smartphones, and the internet, dominate children's lives nowadays (Rahanam, & Khan, 2016). Juvenile criminality has emerged as a result of the increased use of new technology by kids and teenagers combined with a marked rise in criminal activities and aggressive behavior brought on by a lack of self-control (Shali, 2017). However, a recent study indicated that violent content in the media has little impact on Juvenile delinquency (Al-Karbi & Mai, 2018).

Parental Mediation, TV Crime Shows, and Juvenile Delinquency

One of the most important socialization facilitators that help youngsters acquire and retain positive attitudes, abilities, and knowledge is their parents. To help school-age children socialize appropriately, parents use a variety of techniques, including modeling, rule-making, reinforcement, and discussion. Parental mediation strategies are what we term this (Anyaeibunam et al., 2019). The concept encompasses the methods parents use to manage, regulate, or interpret media information for their children (Warren, 2001). Parental mediation is the term used by Kutner et al. (2008) to describe the methods parents employ to limit their children's media use. Parental mediation is the process through which parents attempt to make complex media expressions understandable to children with varying cognitive development stages (Stanaland et al., 2015). Parental mediation refers to the techniques parents use in this study to keep an eye on and limit their kids' exposure to violent media. Parents may employ one or more of these tactics in combination to moderate their adolescent children's consumption of media content. According to Onuigbo et al. (2019), parents can mediate how their children interact with the media through active mediation, co-using mediation, restricted mediation, or eclectic mediation.

In restrictive mediation, parents set guidelines to control the kinds of media that their children may access and how much of it they can. That is, parents who use restrictive mediation place restrictions on both the amount of time spent on screens and the information they may see (Lwin et al., 2008). Restrictive mediation, as described by De Pelsmacker et al. (2020), establishes guidelines for adolescents' TV use, such as the kinds of content they may watch or how often.

Restrictive mediation appears to be the most widely utilized parental mediation technique (Kutner et al. 2008). When opposed to active mediation, restrictive mediation may be less effective since it may not help kids improve their critical thinking abilities (De Pelsmacker et al., 2020). However, Shin (2010) contended that a child's exposure to media elements deemed less acceptable may be minimized if they follow their parents' restrictions. It can affect the way they act right away. Talking with adolescents about acceptable media consumption practices and problematic elements of media material is necessary for active mediation. According to Shany and Yablon (2021), Active mediation is having conversations about TV with adolescents concerning the shows, content, and advertisements.

Parents who actively mediate their adolescent children may be able to foster their critical thinking skills and shield them from the harmful impacts of media (Mendoza, 2009). In the past, Livingstone (2002) has suggested that talking with children is a better way to guide them than using rules. When parents actively mediate, their children learn more from educationally oriented media material and develop healthy social behaviors (Nathanson, 2001). Children's political socialization is influenced by negative active mediation (Austin & Pinkelton, 2001). Parents' clear explanations of their values and expectations, no matter how archaic they may seem, are helpful and protective for adolescents. Parents can potentially control the type of violent content that adolescents are exposed to if they watch such content with adolescents and offer their own opinions (Strasburger & Wilson, 2002).

Because they are worried about the negative impacts of media on children, most parents consume media content with their children to keep an eye on what their children are seeing (Eneizat et al., 2024). According to Nathanson (2001), active and restrictive mediation was correlated with parents' negative attitudes towards violent TV shows, while parent-child co-viewing of violent shows was positively related to parents' positive attitudes towards violent shows.

According to Nathanson (2001), restricted mediation is inversely correlated with parents' fondness for violent TV shows and their perception of the violence's beneficial effects on their children. However, active mediation has little to do with these views. Parents' harmful opinions about media content lead to restricted and active mediation, according to Warren et al. (2002). Furthermore, Warren (2001) found that parents were more likely to use both restrictive and active parental mediation strategies at higher levels than parents who were less concerned about the negative effects of their children

watching violent TV. Based on the above discussion, parental mediation plays the main role in the impact of exposure to TV crime shows on juvenile delinquency. Consequently, it is hypothesized that parental mediation moderates the link between TV crime shows and juvenile delinquency.

Gender and Juvenile Delinquency

Gender plays a vital role in influencing an individual's behavior. Juvenile delinquency varies by gender, for example, juvenile boys are more likely to commit criminal acts than girls (Tisak et al., 2021). Due to the female gender's comparatively low participation in both juvenile delinquency and general criminality, gender is one of the characteristics of the criminal offender that draws attention from the scientific community in criminological research (Arnaudovski, 2007).

Despite being the subject of several studies, the relationship between gender and violence has not received enough attention from researchers (Eneizat et al., 2023a). According to Ademi (2023), The disparity in the proportion of male and female offenders has not been explained by classical theories, which were the first scientific explanations of crime. Most people believe that criminality is an issue that mostly affects men. It has been found that, up until recently, men had dominated the criminal justice system as the primary offenders of crimes against women. However, due to the lack of gender disparity, some girls sometimes commit criminal behavior (Matos, 2018). The study seeks to discover the difference between males and females in juvenile delinquency in Jordan.

Socioeconomic Conditions and Juvenile Delinquency

Studies have revealed that the family's socioeconomic conditions are a significant risk factor for the development of negative adolescent behavior (Berkowitz, 2020; Lee et al., 2021). While there is likely to be criminal activity in every neighborhood, economically disadvantaged areas have a much higher prevalence of illegal activities (Abhishek & Balamurugan, 2024). Because they feel they have no other option, children who live in these neighborhoods are more likely to participate in unlawful activities like shoplifting or getting into violent altercations (Abhishek & Balamurugan, 2024). If children in these areas have access to a suitable education and the necessities for survival, likely, they won't feel the need to turn to criminal behavior in order to make ends meet (Chowdhury & Fahim, 2019). According to DeCamp and Ferguson's (2017) meta-analysis research, the social and familial context has a more significant role in predicting the likelihood of aggression. This explains the reasons for the behavioral issues that accompany adolescents from low-income families or those who reside in disadvantaged neighborhoods, which ultimately contribute to a rise in juvenile delinquency.

Social learning theory

The present work was guided in its focus and direction by social learning theory and cultivation theory. Since Bandura's theory was first proposed in the 1960s, it has been empirically examined in prior studies (Gibson, 2004). Furthermore, the social learning theory may be used to ascertain actual events and learned behaviors from an individual's social surroundings at different points of their lives and from media content (Gibson, 2004). Social cognition, or social learning, theory provides an explanation for this above argument and the impact of violence in the media on violence and criminal activities in general (see Akers, 1998 p; Bandura, 1977). As to the social learning theory, an individual's behavior is influenced by their past experiences in similar situations and their attitudes towards a particular behavior in their social surroundings. These factors primarily establish the individual's behavioral norms. Bandura highlights the significance of self-regulatory cognitive processes in understanding how conduct is learned (Bandura, 1973; Bandura & Walters, 1977) and the (learned) violence- or delinquency. All social cognitive theories (Akers, 1998) emphasize the importance of approving normative ideas in explaining violent or delinquent action. In addition, The application of cultivation theory highlights the influence of media, especially television, on people's propensity for violence and crime (Gerbner & Gross, 1976). Television programs with criminal content influence the behavior of viewers, especially those who are exposed to them extensively. Based on this assumption, those who watch television frequently are more likely to notice the most common and recurring themes on television and relate them to the real world in a similar way (Morgan & Shanahan, 2010). Thus, heavy exposure to crime content on television increases criminal behavior in real life.

According to social learning theory and cultivation theory, people learn about delinquency in the media by watching TV crime shows and other forms of media. The current study employed both theories to assess the impact of exposure to

crime content on TV on juvenile delinquency, drawing on earlier debates that show how extensively and thoroughly this expectation explains the fact of juvenile delinquency. The above-mentioned discussions made it possible to build the study's structure. Refer to Figure 1.

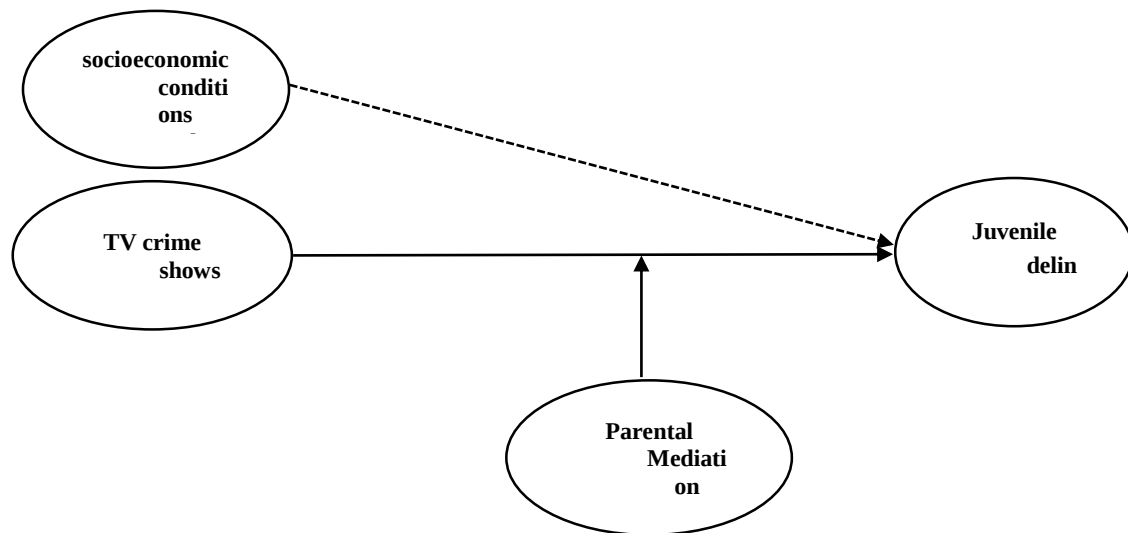


Figure 1: Conceptual framework

Based on the previous discussions, the researchers created a conceptual framework as depicted in Figure 1. The current study seeks to prove the following hypotheses:

H1: TV crime shows are related to juvenile delinquency

H2: Parental mediation moderates the relationship between TV crime shows and juvenile delinquency

H3: There are differences in juvenile delinquency associated with socioeconomic conditions

H4: There are differences in juvenile delinquency associated with gender

Methodology

Population and Sample Size

The population of this study consisted of adolescents in Jordanian society to achieve the main objective of the study. Society in Jordan shares many similar traits, so this focuses on adolescents across Jordan. There were 500 adolescents, ages 12 to 18. According to Krejcie and Morgan (1970), a total of 384 individuals make up the sample size for this study. However, the researchers disseminated 500 questionnaires by Lovelock et al.'s (1976) recommendation to ensure a sufficient response rate. A total of 421 of the 500 questionnaires that were given could be used, which corresponds to an 84% response rate. This was deemed appropriate for further analysis. The study sample was selected using the purposive approach.

3.2 Instruments

Dependent Variable: It includes a modified version of a 6-question instrument to measure the structure of juvenile delinquency. The delinquency instrument used in this study, theft, and violent crime are the two predominant categories of criminal behavior involved. An instrument with adequate psychometric properties was developed by Chapple et al. (2005). This instrument has adequate reliability (Weng & Chui, 2018) and was therefore used. In this study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the subscales was 0.88 and 0.89.

Independent variable: This includes a modified version of the instrument developed by Dean Hammer et al. (2014) to measure TV crime shows. This set of questions was chosen because it has high reliability. A 5-point Likert scale was used with responses ranging from 1 = strongly agree to 5 = strongly disagree. In this study, the Cronbach's alpha for the scales was 0.90.

Moderation Variable: This included a modified version of the 12-question instrument developed by Bulck and Bergh (2000) to measure the construct of parental mediation behaviors in children's TV use. They were asked to select one of 5 responses (always, usually, often, sometimes, and never) to answer the questions. The scale included the three types of parental mediation approaches: (a) instructive approach; (b) viewing approach; and (c) restrictive approach. This set of components was chosen because it has high reliability. In this study, the Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the three subscales were 0.85, 0.72, and 0.75.

Results

Descriptive analysis

Table 1 shows the means and standard deviations for the study variables. The mean for juvenile delinquency is 3.08 with a standard deviation of 0.86 and TV crime shows has a mean of 1.80 and a standard deviation of 0.84. Also, "media exposure" has a mean of 3.40 and a standard deviation of 0.79.

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics of Constructs

Constructs	Mean	Sta. Deviation
Juvenile delinquency	3.08	.86
TV crime shows	1.80	.84
Parental mediation	3.40	.79

Hypothesis Results

Using SPSS version 26, the first hypothesis was tested by Pearson correlation. Table 2 shows the results of the correlation analysis between the research variables. Through matrix analysis, it was revealed that there is a statistically significant correlation at the significance level (0.000) between TV crime shows and juvenile delinquency. The correlation coefficient is ($R=.513$), this value indicates a moderately strong positive relationship between the two variables. The results are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Pearson Correlation for the relationship TV crime shows and Juvenile delinquency

		Violent behavior	Media exposure
Juvenile delinquency	Pearson Correlation	1	.513**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
TV crime shows	Pearson Correlation	.513**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	

Note: **. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Hypothesis 2 was tested using the SPSS bootstrapping technique. The results are based on 5000 bootstrap samples using bias correction and a 95% confidence interval (Preacher and Hayes, 2008). Table 3 shows that parental supervision moderates the relationship between exposure to TV crime shows and juvenile delinquency ($\beta = -.161$, $p < .05$). Based on the table, the effect of criminal content on TV increases juvenile delinquency when parental mediation decreases. As a result, Hypothesis 2, which posited that parental mediation moderates the relationship between TV crime shows and juvenile delinquency, was accepted.

Table 3. Table 3. Moderation Test for Parental Mediation Moderates the Relationship between TV Crime Shows and Juvenile Delinquency

Variable	Dependent Variable	Beta	t-value	P-value	Bootstrapping (CI)	
					Lower limit	Upper limit
TV crime shows	juvenile delinquency	.708	5.88	.000	.471	.945
Parental mediation		.409	2.32	.001	.063	.754
TV crime shows × parental mediation		-.161	-2.10	.001	-.310	-.011

Variable	Dependent Variable	Beta	t-value	P-value	Bootstrapping (CI)	
					Lower limit	Upper limit
R2	.048					
F	8.680					

**p < .05

The purpose of this hypothesis 3 is to find variations in juvenile delinquency behavior based on the family's socioeconomic conditions. A one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was carried out to test the hypothesis. According to Table 4, family socioeconomic conditions did not significantly influence juvenile delinquency ($F=2.39$, $p>.05$). The results are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. One-way Results to Test Differences in Juvenile Delinquency Associated with Socioeconomic Conditions

	Sum of Squares	F	Sig.
Between Groups	3.551	2.39	.093
Within Groups	310.515		
Total	314.066		

*Scheffe Alpha (0.05)

Hypothesis 4 aimed to find differences in juvenile delinquency behavior based on gender. To test the hypothesis, a T-test was conducted. According to Table 4, gender had a significant difference in the effect on juvenile delinquency ($F=7.15$, $p=.008$). The results showed that males are more likely to commit delinquent behaviors than girls in Jordanian society. The results are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5. T-test Results to Examine Differences in Juvenile Delinquency Associated with Gender

Juvenile delinquency	df	t-value	F	Sig.
Gender	419	.323	7.15	.008

*Scheffe Alpha (0.05)

Discussion

The study showed that there is an important, positive, and moderate relationship between exposure to TV crime shows and juvenile delinquency behavior. This means that teens will behave more aggressively whenever they are exposed to criminal content on TV. Exposure to media with criminal content during adolescence is an important indicator of the increase in juvenile delinquency in Jordan. This finding is consistent with Kaya's (2019) study which examined the harmful effects of media and found a positive relationship between violent TV content and severe violence and delinquency. It also pointed out that adolescents' perceptions of violence as acceptable, natural, or even joyful increase the chance of them being influenced by the media (Kaya, 2019). Bushman and Anderson (2015) also confirmed that violent TV content is one of the most important reasons for the increase in juvenile delinquency. Therefore, the danger of the media on the behavior of adolescents must be realized.

Juveniles who watch media, especially criminal content, are exposed to realistic depictions of physical fighting and delinquency. Therefore, adolescents identify violent activities more easily. Adolescents are likely to imitate and learn about these activities, especially if they are exposed to significant TV criminal content. Social learning theory holds that the main source of violence and deviance is the media (Bandura 1978). Individuals are often exposed to a wide range of violent activities on TV. According to this theory, individuals acquire new behaviors by seeing how others behave in social situations or through the media, thus prompting them to imitate criminal TV content (Bandura 1978). Furthermore, many previous quantitative and qualitative studies have examined the effects of negative media and TV programs on people (e.g., Abhishek & Balamurugan, 2024; Adriaenssen et al., 2020; Eneizat et al., 2024; Song et al. 2022). The results of this study demonstrated that TV crime shows stimulate juvenile delinquency.

The results of this study revealed that parental mediation moderates the relationship between television crime shows and juvenile delinquency. This means that the degree of influence of television crime programs on juvenile delinquency varies depending on parental mediation. Therefore, the current results indicate the importance of parental mediation as a third variable in this study. Parents play a crucial role in helping their children socialize so that they can develop and maintain positive attitudes, skills, and knowledge. Many previous studies have shown the importance of parental mediation in influencing the delinquent behaviors of individuals (Anyaeibunam et al., 2019). Parental mediation works to establish principles for adolescents' exposure to TV, including the type of content they may watch, the frequency of viewing, and the duration of viewing (De Pelsmacker et al., 2020). Therefore, the effect of parental mediation moderates the effect of television content on their behavior. Parental mediation is a way for parents to monitor their children and limit their exposure to antisocial media (Stanaland et al., 2015). Parents can mediate the way their children use and interact with media (Onuigbo et al., 2019).

The results of the study showed that there are differences in the behaviors of juvenile delinquents due to gender. Based on the analysis, males are more likely to commit deviant behaviors than females in the Jordanian context. This result is consistent with the results of previous studies. For example, Ademi (2023) noted that deviant and violent behavior is common among adolescents, especially among males. The results also indicated that socioeconomic status does not affect deviant behaviors in adolescents. This means that juvenile delinquency is serious and is not attributable to a particular family's socioeconomic status. In general, demographic factors play an important role in influencing delinquent behavior (Arnaudovski, 2007; Tisak et al., 2021).

Recommendations And Suggestions For Future Research

The study presents an in-depth view of the key variables affecting juvenile delinquency. The frameworks and methodology will direct further research in this field and clarify how parental mediation moderates the impact of TV crime shows on juvenile delinquency in the Jordanian setting. The results of this study will provide compelling evidence for future investigations into the connections between these variables. In light of this, additional research must be done to comprehend the causes of Jordan's rising juvenile delinquency rate as well as how parental mediation affects the associations between these variables. In addition, the role of demographic factors such as gender and socioeconomic conditions in influencing juvenile delinquency. The study will make a significant contribution to the growing body of knowledge about the variables influencing juvenile delinquency in Jordan. Additionally, it will raise awareness of the importance of the adolescent cohort's development among leaders, decision-makers, government agencies, and other relevant parties. Furthermore, the results of this study indicate that violence and delinquency are not exclusive to adolescents, and future research should concentrate on examining these issues in adults and children.

Limitations

There are several restrictions on this study. Firstly, teenagers are represented in the sample size. It may be possible to more accurately assess the impact of violent media on juvenile delinquency by employing a large sample size and concentrating on different age groups, such as adults and children. Future research might benefit greatly from a cross-national investigation to confirm the present findings. Second, other violent media were not included in this study since it was centered on TV crime shows. These fields have a big impact on adolescent delinquency as well, and more study is needed to understand the processes behind their individual and combined effects. Finally, there may be other mediating and moderating variables. In addition to parental mediation such as school factors and social factors may act as mediators or moderators in the relationship between TV crime shows and juvenile delinquency. Further mediation or moderation may be beneficial for future research, even if a moderation model was created in this study.

Conclusion

The present work contributes to the existing body of knowledge about crime and violence in several ways. It provides an opportunity for future researchers to conduct empirical studies to evaluate juvenile delinquency, especially in the Jordanian setting, by developing hypotheses among important variables such as TV crime shows. In addition, this work provides comprehensive conceptual and theoretical foundations that expand the body of research on deviance. The

underlying causes of adolescent misbehavior are discussed in the study, which may help pave the way for more fundamental solutions. The research will not only add to the body of knowledge on the subjects of delinquency and adolescent behaviour, particularly when viewed from the perspective of culture, but it will also help policymakers, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations create and implement policies regarding media representation and the effects of watching crime-related TV. Decision-makers can reduce the involvement of adolescents in delinquency by developing suitable strategies and policies with the support of the knowledge gathered from this research, which can help them establish an extensive understanding of the problem.

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