Title: A Survey on correlation between Audiovisual Media and Adolescent Violent Behaviors in Iranian School-Aged Children

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Abstract: Background: This study explores the correlation between using two common audiovisual media, television and video, and violent behaviors among male adolescent boys. Iranian children have access to television, satellite, videogames and computer facilities that are exposing them to violent scenes. 34.4% of adolescent students use television or video for more than 30 minutes per day in schooldays. Also 47.4% of them use computer for more than 30 minutes per schooldays.

Materials and Methods: 604 adolescent boys aged 13 and 15 years participated in a cross sectional survey on Health Behavior in School-Aged Children in year 2008. Students were a representative sample of adolescent male schoolchildren of Pakdasht County in Tehran.

Results: Average hours of using the audiovisual media for school days were 2.39±2 for 13 year-old students and 2.86±2 for 15 year-old students. The target community of Iranian students overall spends rather the same time to use the audiovisual media than what has been reported by some other multinational studies in developed countries. Increasing use of audiovisual media is correlated with higher rates of carrying weapon, committing fight and bullying others that can endanger both health and life of school children.

Conclusion: Using the audiovisual media is accompanied with higher violent behavior in spite of anti-violence cultural policy of Iran. School supervision may have a great role in controlling violent behavior of students; however, this might not prevent hidden episodes. It is recommended to revise the content of audiovisual programs which are accessible by adolescents through enforcement of the adopted anti-violence broadcasting policy.

Key Words: Audiovisual, Adolescent, Violent, behavior, school-Aged children

Presentation: Oral