

TELEVISION: IS IT A POISON?



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On a Sunday, the second Holy mass came to the end at 8.45am and all the people started to leave the church with blessings. Later the premises of the church seemed to be deserted entirely; still a mother was desperately searching, here and there, for her beloved daughter, who accompanied her to the celebration of mass. After long time, the helpless and hopeless woman went back home without her one and only child but with excessive tears and extreme mental agony. After reaching home, as the main door was locked from inside, she started shouting and hitting the door with a bombarding sound. Unfortunately no response heard from inside; at the same time some disturbed neighbours gathered at the front yard of her home and watched the very pathetic and painful condition of the poor exhausted mother. Then, the lock was broken by one of the neighbours with an iron rod and rushed to the bedroom of that suddenly disappeared-daughter. Very sadly, there was a dead body of a teen-age student found hanging under a fan and a suicide note was also being pasted on the wall of the room. The suicide note revealed the secret of the death. "She committed such a horrible act, because her own mother simply cut off the TV channels, few days before, in view of the forth coming plus two exams".

Television is one of the most important miracles of science and technology in the world. It has brought about a revolution in various fields such as entertainment, education, commerce and communication. One can watch moving, talking and living pictures on a small screen, while sitting at home in a relaxed state of mind. However, TV has many positive and negative effects on human life, especially studenthood.

Positive effects

Many educative and informative programmes can also be shown on TV, which are of great benefit to the students for good academic performance. Like that, politicians, scientists, doctors, social workers and other eminent persons can use this medium for communicating with the people directly. So, people gain a huge collection of information regarding scientific, political, medical and social matters. Moreover, TV can high light the social evils like casteism, dowry auction, alcoholism, gambling etc and also gradually enhance the process of their eradication from the society. Finally, it can create awareness among the people about corruption. Therefore, people can be taught the need to avoid offering or accepting bribes. They can also be advised to support the government in arresting the flow of black money, smuggling etc.

Negative effects

According to researchers, the viewers feel an instant sense of relaxation when they start to watch small screen, but that feeling disappears just as quickly as the box is turned off. A child who is a regular viewer of TV until his fifteenth year, becomes familiar to more than one lakh murders, ten thousand rape scenes and an equal number of anti-social activities. Likewise, when students are spending too much time in front of TV, eventually they tend to lose curiosity in reading subject books causing very poor results in the examinations and also victimized to childhood obesity(fatness) and visual problems.

In the wake of release of SSLC and +2 Examination results in 2010, Tamil newspaper *Dinamalar* interviewed a considerable number of the state level rank holders at various schools from across Tamil Nadu. About 60% of the students responded in a negative way about the role of TV in their studies.

Let us listen to some of those academic achievers with enough patience (courtesy: *Kalvimalar*).

- *“As, I was not passionate with cinema and TV programmes, I was able to accomplish this success”* **[Pandiyan, First rank holder of +2 exam]**
- *“I completely stopped watching Television”* **[Ershad, Second rank holder of SSLC exam]**
- *“I excelled, as I did not watch Television”* **[Pradakshan, Third rank holder of +2 exam]**

To sum up, children are the most valuable assets and brightest future for parents. Besides, all parents have their own dream and desire on their children that they secure better positions in their lives through better quality education. Paying close attention with love and care, parenting can convert any ordinary child into an extra ordinary child. *Dear parents*, since it is the season of school Exams and World cup-cricket, before switching on TV, please think twice and use one of the powerful electronic media wisely for making responsible individuals at home, productive citizens in the country and living saints on the earth.