

## **Reenactment Based Crime Shows Representation on Social Media by Pakistani Channels and its Psychological Effects on Youth of Lahore**

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### ***Abstract***

*This research examines the impact of crime shows with reenactments on the attitudes, perceptions and behaviors of Pakistani youth. In the age of media explosion, especially in the form of crime shows, media influence is a significant issue. In a country like Pakistan, where there is an emphasis on cultural and moral values, research on the effects of these shows on young adults is lacking. This study adopts a quantitative method, and uses a survey data collection technique with a sample of 600 undergraduate students from a university in Lahore, Pakistan. The research examines the students' media viewing patterns, exposure to crime shows and their psychogenic responses to these shows. The results show strong correlations between the consumption of reenactment-based crime shows and changes in attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors of youth in Pakistan. Research findings point towards the need for responsible media and ethical journalism, especially in a culture-based society. This study adds to the debate on media effects through a better understanding of the impact of reenactment-based crime shows on youth in*

*Pakistan. The results have implications for media ethics, production, and the health of young adults in an ever-changing media ecosystem.*

**Keywords:** Reenactment-Based Crime Shows, Media Influence, Pakistani Youth, Media Ethics, and Psychological Impact.

## **1. Introduction**

These days, Pakistani television channels and social media are filled with reenactment-based crime shows. These programs attempt to present real crime stories and involve the audience through the reenactment of the crime. These shows are seen as informative and entertaining, but they can also have a negative impact on viewers, especially the young (Mukhtar & Sheharbano, 2025; Huesmann et al., 2021).

This research seeks to understand the portrayal of reenactment crime shows by Pakistani channels on social media and psychological impacts on the youth of Lahore. This study is significant as it seeks to gain a complete picture of the influence of crime shows on social media and how they might affect the youth of Lahore. The research looks at the type and amount of crime shows, especially those that feature reenactments, on social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Lahore's youth are a critical focus for this research as they are exposed to crime shows every day, and may be more susceptible to the potential psychological impact of these shows (Elliott, 2021). This study adds to the growing body of research on the effects of media on the psychological development of young people, and provides insight into potential negative effects of media content.

The results of this study add to the literature on the impact of crime shows on social media and the psychological effects of these crime shows on the youth of Lahore. Further, the research offers suggestions for media representation and awareness of the impact of crime shows on social media. Overall, this study seeks to address the lack of research on the effects of crime shows based on reenactments on social media and the psychological consequences on the youth of Lahore. The study is significant for media literacy programs and policy makers to be aware of the potential dangers of these type of shows and to encourage responsible media representation.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Media has become an indispensable part of people's lives, serving not only as a source of news but also as a mean of entertainment and advertising (Barati, 2023). The more people rely on media, the more influence it gains. However, while there are general guidelines about on what to report, how to report, and when to report, a lack of attention given to what not to report, whom not to report, and when not to report has been observed by researcher.

This irresponsibility of the media has been challenging the future of media ethics. A study has revealed that media coverage of crime shows is reaching at its nadir because of lack of awareness of aspects like what crime to report and how to report it (Fischer & Griffin, 2022). Whether to get rating by the quality of the content or cheap drills is a question to be answered unambiguously. The advent and popularity of re-enactment crime shows in Pakistan's media has brought into question their content and impact on the minds of young people. These shows frequently contain crude, sensationalized and may be inconsistent with the moral and cultural values of Pakistan, an Islamic nation with its own unique cultural values and practices (Huesmann et al., 2021).

Furthermore, the ethical obligations of the media to deliver morally upright and responsible media content are often compromised in the creation of these shows (Digital Media Research Association, 2023). This critical issue calls for research on the psychological effects of such shows on the youth and ethical concerns of media production in Pakistan's cultural milieu. Furthermore, these crime shows often feature graphic violence, sex and romanticized crime, which can normalize violence and crime in the eyes of the viewers, particularly the youth.

## **1.3 Significance of the Study**

This study will shed light on the psychological impact of crime reporting of electronic media on social media by Pakistani television channels on the youth of Lahore, Pakistan. The results of this study will help policymakers, media practitioners and academics to design strategies to handle crime and punishment issues in Pakistan. This research will be useful in understanding the effects of media coverage of crime and punishment on the youth's

attitudes, perceptions and behaviors towards them. The study can assist in raising awareness among the public about the role of responsible media coverage of crimes and punishments. Research can help in designing media literacy programs for the youth to encourage them to think critically and consume media responsibly.

The study will help in understanding the influence of electronic media on the public's attitudes and beliefs towards crime and punishment in Pakistan. This research can add to the body of knowledge on media's impact on public perceptions and attitudes towards different social issues, such as crime and punishment.

## **2. Research Objectives**

Following are the research objectives:

- To examine the representation of crime and punishment on social media by Pakistani TV channels.
- To assess the psychological effects of electronic media's crime reporting on the youth of Lahore, Pakistan.
- To determine the relationship between media exposure and the attitudes and behaviors of youth towards crime and punishment.

## **3. Research Questions**

**RQ1:** Is there any relationship between crime reenactment shows and fear in youth of Lahore?

**RQ2:** Is there any relationship between the content of re-enactment programs and youth's inclination towards seductive activities?

**RQ3:** Is there any relationship Between Content of re-enactments programs and promoting hatred toward crimes amongst youth?

## **4. Literature Review**

In this study, the literature review serves as a comprehensive and critical examination of the existing body of knowledge regarding the influence of crime re-enactment television programs on societal attitudes, perceptions, and behaviors, particularly among young audiences. It provides a systematic

analysis of previous studies, scholarly debates, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings that have explored the relationship between media exposure and audience responses to crime-related content. By synthesizing relevant literature, the review establishes a strong conceptual foundation for the study and identifies gaps that require further investigation.

The literature review aims to achieve several important objectives. First, it offers an overview of the current state of research concerning the role of media in shaping public perceptions of crime, violence, victimization, and personal safety. It examines how repeated exposure to crime-focused content can influence individuals' understanding of social reality, perceptions of crime prevalence, and levels of fear and insecurity. Second, it contributes to the ongoing academic debate regarding the extent to which media representations of crime affect attitudes toward criminal behavior, law enforcement agencies, and the criminal justice system.

Furthermore, the review explores the psychological and sociological mechanisms through which crime re-enactment shows may influence viewers. In this regard, it draws upon established theoretical frameworks such as the Social Learning Theory, which suggests that individuals may learn and imitate behaviors observed in media content, and the Cultivation Theory, which argues that prolonged exposure to television content can shape audiences' perceptions of reality. These theories provide a theoretical basis for understanding how crime re-enactment programs may affect viewers' cognitive processes, emotional responses, and behavioral tendencies.

#### **4.1 Media's Role in Shaping Attitudes about Crime and Violence**

The media has been shown to have a significant impact on attitudes and perceptions towards crime and violence (Ferguson, 2007). Specifically, crime reenactment shows can perpetuate the idea of a stereotypical and "sensationalized" portrayal of crime. This may result in stereotypes and stigmatization and can affect viewer's opinions of particular groups.

#### ***4.1.1 Violence in The Media and Crime Reenactment Shows on Fear and Behavior***

Exposure to violence in the media can result in greater fear and anxiety, desensitization to violence and even aggression (Anderson, Berkowitz, & Donnerstein, 2003). The parallels to crime reenactment shows can be drawn as such shows tend to concentrate on violent and sensational crimes. Importantly, these shows may contribute to the creation of a culture of fear and anxiety, particularly in vulnerable groups such as children.

#### ***4.1.2 Promotion of Seductive Activities through Crime Reenactment Shows***

A significant issue with crime reenactment shows relates to the potential “promotion” of seductive activities, particularly among young people. Research shows that viewing sexual content in the media may be related to early sexual activity and promiscuity (Strasburger, 2001). As crime reenactment shows often involve sexual offenses, this can have a significant bearing on youth. The depiction of sexual violence as a part of entertainment in these shows can result in desensitization to its impact on society.

#### ***4.1.3 Influencing Youth Attitudes and Societal Perceptions through Crime Reenactment Shows***

Bandura stressed that people can learn from others, particularly when it is rewarded or not punished in the media, which may account for the growing interest in crime reenactment shows (Bandura, 1977).

Another effect of crime reenactment shows is to increase hatred of crimes among young people. Studies have demonstrated the influence of media on attitudes towards justice and police (Brewer, 2013). Media crime reenactment shows can portray crime and justice in a simplistic and biased way, which can result in negative attitudes towards the justice system. This can result in a distrust for the justice system and instigate vigilantism. The representation of crime reenactments in the media has been the focus of much research.

This focus has been on understanding the potential psychological impact of these reenactments on viewers, particularly the young. In this

literature review, we bring together the relevant literature in this domain, including past studies on the representation of crime shows on social media, the social learning theory, the cultivation theory and the psychological effects on youth audiences, specifically of Lahore, Pakistan. Firstly, the portrayal of crime shows in social media is a significant focus in the field of media and communications.

One of the key studies about media-crime relationship is Surette's (2011) work. He proposed that crime representation on the media has a profound impact on people's understanding of crime and justice in the society and that continuous exposure could cause desensitization to violence, or stimulation of crime imitations (Surette, 2011). This is consistent with the Social Learning theory put forward by Bandura (1977), where mass media is being used as a vehicle to learn various types of behaviors, including violence and crime.

#### **4.2 Psychological Effects on People**

Media has been proven to have a significant impact on people's psychology and behaviour. For instance, cultivation theory argues that the media can influence people's view of the world (Gerber, 2011). This theory suggests that the greater the exposure to media, the higher the acceptance to messages depicted on media. Likewise, the social learning theory proposed by Alberta bandura put forward that we learn our social behavior through imitation of others' behavior.

#### **4.3 Behavior psychology and Crime show**

Behavioral psychology is a sub-discipline of psychology that seeks to understand and explain human behavior and how it's influenced by environmental factors, including experiences, reinforcement and conditioning. It places a strong focus on observable and measurable behavior, rather than unobservable mental processes, in the study of human psychology.

There has been evidence that viewing crime shows can influence viewers' attitudes and behaviours. These shows tend to present violence and crime in a dramatised way, which can lead to viewers becoming desensitised

to violence and an overall rise in fear and anxiety in the community (Strom et al., 2016).

A study showed that viewers of crime shows were more aggressive and desensitized to violence than non-viewers (Weitzer & Kubrin, 2009). Other research showed that exposure to crime shows increased perceptions of the risk of victimization, even during a time when crime rates were decreasing (Gerbner et al., 1994). Moreover, Bandura's social learning theory posits that people can acquire new attitudes and behaviours through observation, and crime shows offer plenty of opportunities for observing these behaviours (Bandura, 1977). This may contribute to the acceptance of criminal behavior and attitudes, especially among children for whom this type of learning can be particularly influential (Phillips et al., 2015). In summary, the effects of crime show on viewers are mixed, with both positive and negative consequences. But the risks of desensitization, fear and normalisation of crime and criminal attitudes underlines the need for ethical and responsible production and regulation of these programs.

#### **4.4 Use of Vulgar Thumbnails by Pakistani Media on Social Media Platforms**

The use of vulgar and provocative thumbnails on official social media accounts by the Pakistani media, such as shows like “Taftishi,” On Lahore Rung, highlights issues related to the ethical promotion of media content. In recent shows, thumbnails with provocative Urdu headlines like “4 bacho ki maa k sath jismani taluqaat” (Physical relationships with the mother of 4 children), “bivi ny har had par kr di” (Wife crossed all limits), “ghar ma sfai krny ati thi” (She used to come for cleaning at home) and “Nasha kr k larky ny do behno k sath” (After getting high, a boy with two sisters) have appeared. The use of sensational and provocative content to create interest and possibly boost ratings is evident in these thumbnails. But it also demonstrates a lack of morals and social values.

The explicit content of these thumbnails and the suggestive and sensational wording used could have implications for viewers, particularly the young audience who are exposed to such content on social media. These

thumbnails, which promote explicit content, have the potential to normalize explicit content and lead to desensitization of social norms.

## **5. Research Hypotheses**

**H1:** There is an association between crime reenactment shows and fear in youth?

**H2:** There is an association between the content of re-enactment programs and youth's inclination towards seductive activities.

**H3:** There is an association between the content of re-enactment programs and promoting hatred toward crimes amongst youth.

## **6. Methodology**

The study is utilizing a quantitative approach by designing a survey questionnaire. The universe comprises individuals who are active social media users and are either studying or residing in Lahore, Pakistan. The population of interest for this study is a subset of the universe mentioned earlier. It specifically includes male and female university students in Lahore who actively use social media and are often exposed to various forms of media, including crime re-enactment shows on social media platforms. The sample size for this research was determined to be 600 participants. The sampling technique employed for this study was simple random sampling. Data for this research was collected through the use of a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire structure was close ended in nature and data were gathered between May and June 2023. The questionnaire was distributed online and face-to – face.

### **6.1 Limitations**

It is essential to acknowledge certain limitations in the methodology. One limitation is the potential for non-response bias, as some participants may choose not to complete the survey. Additionally, while random sampling was used, there may still be inherent sampling biases. However, efforts were made to mitigate these limitations and ensure the validity of the findings.

## 6.2 Reliability of the Tool

To measure the reliability of the survey a test of reliability was applied to all the question. Following is the reliability statistics:

### *Reliability Statistics*

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.793	26

In our survey, the value of Cronbach's Alpha is .793 which is more than the minimum .70 value. Further, reliability of each question was carried out that showed that all the questions fulfilled the reliability of the survey.

## 7. Findings & Results

### 7.1 Demographic results

Demographic results are the statistical data and profile of the research participants or respondents. Demographic results are essential in research as they offer information on the composition and distribution of the sample, and help researchers interpret how different sub-groups of participants may differ in their attitudes, beliefs or behaviours.

**Table 7.1.1** *Demographic Statistics*

<b>What is your Gender?</b>		
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Male</b>	429	71.5
<b>Female</b>	171	28.5
<b>Total</b>	600	100.0

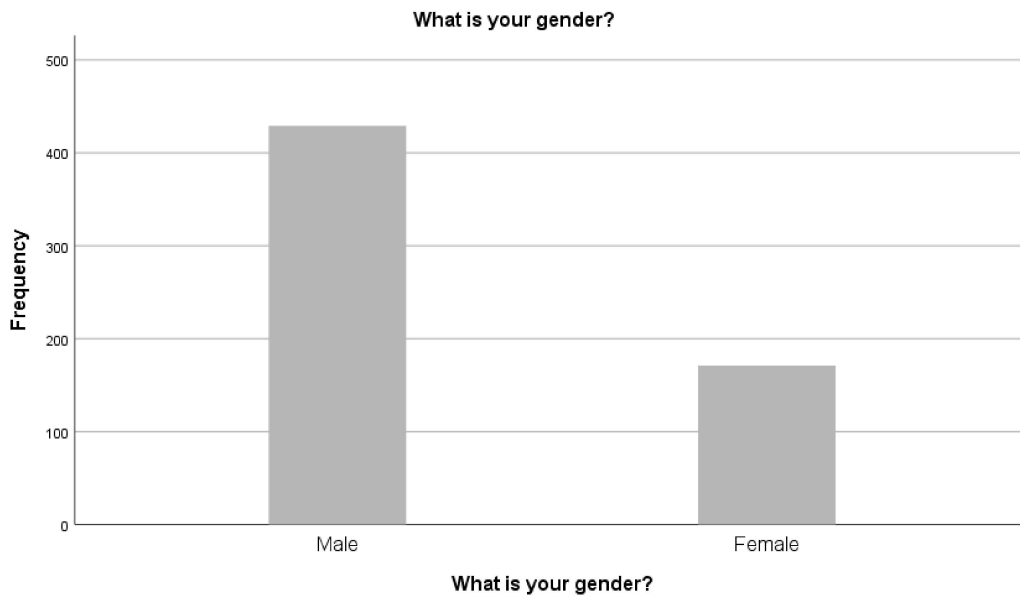


Figure 7.1 Gender Analysis

Above data presents the distribution of a certain characteristic, presumably gender, within a sample size of 600 individuals. The table displays the frequency and percentage of individuals identified as male and female. From the data, it is evident that there were 429 individuals identified as male, constituting 71.5% of the total sample. On the other hand, there were 171 individuals identified as female, making up the remaining 28.5% of the sample.

In summary, the data indicates that within this specific sample of 600 individuals, there was a higher representation of males (71.5%) compared to females (28.5%). This information provides insights into the gender distribution of the observed population.

**Table 7.2** *Have you come across reenactment-based crime shows or crime-related content on social media platforms?*

	Frequency	Percent
<b>Yes</b>	452	75.3
<b>No</b>	142	23.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>99.0</b>

*Crime Re-enactment Shows*

Among the respondents, 594 individuals (approximately 99.0% of the total) indicated that they have exposure to Crime related content on social media platforms. Out of 594,452 respondents (75%) have reported to have seen the reenactment-based crime shows on social media platforms. On the other hand, 142 respondents (around 23.7 % of the total) answered "No" to this question, indicating that they are not amongst the viewers of Crime reenactment shows. It's important to note that the total percentage adds up to 99% which suggest 1% has chosen or skipped the question. A huge number of Youth has been watching these reenactment-based crime shows suggests the importance of this research.

**RQ1:** Is there any relationship between crime reenactment shows and fear amongst youth?

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Change in Perception of Crime or Safety after Watching Crime Re-enactment Shows	66 (11%)	85 (14.2%)	232 (38.7%)	176 (29.3%)	23 (3.8%)
Likelihood to Avoid Places or Activities due to Fear from Crime Re-enactment Shows:	57 (9.5%)	68 (11.3%)	155 (25.8%)	240 (40.0%)	62(10.3%)
Belief in Increased Fear of Being a Victim of Crime from Crime Re-enactment Shows	33 (5.5%)	57 (9.5%)	198 (33.0%)	226 (37.7%)	67(11.2%)

Doubting or Suspecting Someone due to Crime Re-enactment Shows	47 (7.8%)	116 (19.3%)	204 (34.0%)	187 (31.2%)	32 (5.3%)
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A majority of respondents (38.7%) noticed a change in their perception of crime or safety in their local community after watching crime reenactment shows. A notable portion of respondents (40.0%) expressed a likelihood to avoid certain places or activities due to the fear instilled by crime reenactment shows. A significant number of respondents (33.0%) believe that crime reenactment shows increase the fear of being a victim of crime in society. Many respondents (34.0%) have found themselves doubting or suspecting someone in their mind, relating them to the crimes depicted in crime reenactment shows.

**RQ2: Is there a relationship between the content of re-enactment programs and youth’s inclination towards seductive activities?**

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Hard to Discuss or Share Pakistani Crime Show Content on social media due to Vulgar Content	44 (7.3%)	74 (12.3%)	202 (33.7%)	193 (32.2%)	73 (12.2%)
Promotion of Youth's Inclination towards Seductive Activities by Crime Reenactment Shows	28(4.7%)	77 (12.8%)	252 (42.0%)	201 (33.5%)	26 (4.3%)
Changes in Attitude or Behavior towards Seductive Activities	60(10.0%)	107 (17.8%)	239 (39.8%)	141 (23.5%)	37 (6.2%)

*Crime Re-enactment Shows*

after Watching Re-enactment Programs

Perception of Vulgar Content in Crime Enactment Shows for Rating	22 (3.7%)	91 (15.2%)	196 (32.8%)	181 (30.2%)	90 (15.0%)
Inappropriateness of Thumbnails for Pakistani Crime Shows on social media	25 (4.2%)	67 (11.2%)	200 (33.3%)	184 (30.7%)	105 (17.5%)
Frequency of Broadcasting Sexual-Related Crimes in Pakistani Crime Shows	34 (5.7%)	95 (15.8%)	215 (35.8%)	166 (27.7%)	72 (12.0%)
Feeling Uncomfortable or Disturbed by Sexual Content in Crime Reenactment Shows	32 (5.3%)	69 (11.5%)	176 (29.3%)	218 (36.3%)	89 (14.8%)
Comfort in Watching Reenactment Crime Show Along with Mature Family Members	65(10.8%)	160 (26.7%)	224 (37.3%)	103 (17.2%)	30 (5.0%)
Adverse Psychological Effects of Content of Reenactment-Based Crime Shows:	17 (2.8%)	74 (12.3%)	216 (36.0%)	220 (36.7%)	57 (9.5%)

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These interpretations reveal the potential influence of crime reenactment shows on viewers' attitudes, reactions and feelings about crime and safety. The findings highlight the potential impact of the shows on people's perceptions and responses. Many respondents (45.5%) either agree or strongly agree that they don't like to share or talk about the content of Pakistani crime shows on social media with their family because of vulgar content. This could potentially indicate that perceptions about inappropriateness of content could influence their sharing of such content online. Over two-thirds of respondents (75.8%) agree or strongly agree that they think re-enactment programs of crime shows can impact the youth to be more prone to seductive activities. This suggests a generalized view that the shows could influence the attitudes and behaviours of young people.

A significant number (46.0%) either agree or strongly agree that they feel their attitudes or behaviours have changed towards seductive activities as a result of watching reenactment shows. This indicates that some viewers perceive that the shows could affect their own attitudes.

Almost half of the respondents (48.7%) agree or strongly agree that they feel the content of crime enactment shows is mostly vulgar because of channels' desire to increase TRP. This suggests viewers might perceive that sensationalism is occurring to draw attention. Many respondents (50.0%) either agree or strongly agree that they perceive the graphic nature of the thumbnails used for Pakistani crime shows on social media inappropriate. This could indicate that images associated with these shows might be making viewers uncomfortable.

A majority of the respondents (50.7%) agree or strongly agree that they think Pakistani crime shows air more sexual related crimes compared to other crimes. This suggests that viewers think there is an emphasis on this kind of content.

A large number of respondents (44.3%) agree or strongly agree that they have experienced some discomfort or disturbance from the sexual content presented in crime reenactment shows on Pakistani television and social media. This suggests that this type of content may be disturbing to some audience members.

*Crime Re-enactment Shows*

Many respondents (44.8%) either agree or strongly agree that they would be comfortable to watch reenactment crime shows with their adult family members. But the findings also indicate that 37.5% of respondents disagree or strongly disagree, indicating not everyone feels comfortable.

A significant number of respondents (47.8%) either agree or strongly agree that they think content of reenactment crime shows may have a negative (bad) impact on the mental health of viewers. This indicates broad concerns about the possible negative psychological effects of the content.

Overall, the responses indicate a range of views and attitudes towards the content and impact of Pakistani crime reenactment shows. Concerns are related to vulgarity, impact on youth, attitude change, suitability of content and images, and psychological impact. These results suggest that the content and format of these shows are perceived to have an effect on viewers' behaviors, attitudes and psychological health.

**RQ3: There is a relationship between content of re-enactments programs and promoting hatred toward crimes amongst youth.**

	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Belief in Effectiveness of Stricter Punishment in Reducing Crime Rate	21 (3.5%)	39 (6.5%)	150 (25.0%)	188 (31.3%)	177 (29.7%)
Perception of Reenactment-Based Shows and Reporting of Punishment	19 (3.2%)	31 (5.2%)	226 (37.7%)	220 (36.7%)	88 (14.7%)

Promotion of Hatred towards Crime by Content of Crime Reenactment Shows	16 (2.7%)	53 (8.8%)	273 (45.5%)	185 (30.8%)	51 (8.5%)
Effect of "Reporting Punishment" on Promoting Hatred towards Crime:	14 (2.3%)	25 (4.2%)	224 (37.3%)	238 (39.7%)	83 (13.8%)
Appropriateness of Content for Instilling Aversion towards Crime:	15 (2.5%)	40 (6.7%)	332 (55.3%)	164 (27.3%)	27 (4.5%)
Mandatory Reporting of Punishment in Reenactment-Based Crime Shows:?	17 (2.8%)	34 (5.7%)	215 (35.8%)	223 (37.2%)	95 (15.8%)
Emotional Impact of Crime Re-enactment Programs on Anger or Dislike toward Crimes	8 (1.3%)	48 (8.0%)	211 (35.2%)	202 (33.7%)	111 (18.5%)

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A large number of respondents (60.3%) either agree or strongly agree that they believe a tougher punishment can help in lowering the crime rate. This showcases a perception of the deterrent effect of harsh punishment.

A significant percentage of respondents (52.6%) either agree or strongly agree that they believe reenactment-based crime shows do not report the punishment of crimes often and are more concerned about the news value of the crime. This implies a belief in sensationalism over legal consequences of the crime.

A significant number of respondents (45.5%) either agree or strongly agree that they believe the content of crime reenactment shows broadcasted on Pakistani TV channels and social media is promoting hatred towards crime. This suggests a significant number of viewers believe these shows may be incensing hatred towards crime.

A large number of respondents (53.5%) either agree or strongly agree that they believe highlighting "reporting punishment" of crime can help in promoting hatred towards crime. This implies that viewers see this as an approach to create hatred towards crime.

The vast majority of respondents (82.6%) either agree or strongly agree that they believe the content of Pakistani reenactment shows is appropriate for instilling strong aversion or abhorrence towards crime. This suggests a strong perception of the capacity of the shows to evoke negative emotions towards crime.

A significant number of respondents (58.5%) either agree or strongly agree that they believe the punishment of crimes should be reported for reenactment crime shows to help deter crime. This implies a belief that the inclusion of the punishment could be a deterrent effect.

Many respondents (52.7%) either agree or strongly agree that they have experienced anger or dislike towards the crimes as a result of crime re-enactment-based shows. This suggests that many viewers have a negative emotional reaction that promotes dislike of crime.

Overall, the survey findings show a variety of views on the effectiveness of punishment, the content and effects of reenactment-based crime shows, and the importance of reporting punishment to promote aversion and deter crime. It appears that many respondents believe that these shows can influence emotions, attitudes, and behaviors related to criminal activities.

## **7.2 Statistical Analysis of Hypotheses**

For the statistical analysis of the data to obtain results, the researcher has applied Pearson Chi-Square.

**7.2.1 Statistical Testing of Hypothesis H1**

**H1:** There is an association between crime reenactment shows and fear in youth of Lahore?

**H0:** There is no association between crime reenactment shows and fear in youth of Lahore?

CHI	SQUARE		TEST
Test	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance
(2-sided)			
Pearson Chi-Square	30.403 <sup>a</sup>	2	.007
Likelihood Ratio	32.591	2	.003
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.506	1	.220
N of Valid Cases	594	-	-

a. 12 cells (50.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .06.

**7.2.1 Pearson Chi-Square Test**

The Pearson Chi-Square test yielded a value of 30.403<sup>a</sup> with 2 degrees of freedom (df). The associated asymptotic significance (p-value) was found to be highly significant, measuring at 0.007. This result indicates a significant association between the variables under consideration.

Since the P-value is .007 which is less than the significance level i.e. 0.05. Therefore, null hypothesis is rejected and it has been proved that there is an association between crime reenactment shows and fear in youth of Lahore?

**7.2.2 Statistical analysis of Hypothesis 2**

- **H<sup>2</sup>:** There is an association between the content of re-enactment programs and youth's inclination towards seductive activities.

- $H^0$  There is an association between the content of re-enactment programs and youth's inclination towards seductive activities.

### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic
Significance (2-sided)			
Pearson Chi-Square	15.243a	2	.000
Likelihood Ratio	12.521	2	.002
Linear-by-Linear Association	5.067	1	.024
N of Valid Cases	594		

a 1 cell (16.7%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.15.

The Pearson Chi-Square test yielded a value of 15.243 with 2 degrees of freedom (df). The associated asymptotic significance (p-value) was found to be highly significant, measuring at 0.000. This result indicates a significant association between the variables under consideration.

The Likelihood Ratio test produced a Chi-Square value of 12.521 with 2 degrees of freedom. The calculated asymptotic significance (p-value) was 0.002, which also indicates a statistically significant association between the variables.

Since P-value is less than 0.05 so the relationship is significant therefore we reject the null hypothesis and prove that there is an association between the content of re-enactment programs and youth's inclination towards seductive activities

### 7.2.3 *Statistical analysis of hypothesis 3*

- $H^3$ : There is an association between the content of re-enactment programs and promoting hatred toward crimes amongst youth.
- $H^0$  There is no association between the content of re-enactment programs and promoting hatred toward crimes amongst youth.

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**Chi-Square Tests**

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	Value	df	Asymptotic
Significance (2-sided)			
Pearson Chi-Square	16.907a	4	.002
Likelihood Ratio	16.207	4	.003
Linear-by-Linear Association	15.358	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	577		

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a 1 cell (10.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.87.

Since P-value is less than 0.05 so the relationship is significant therefore we reject the null hypothesis and prove that there is an association between the content of re-enactment programs and promoting hatred toward crimes amongst youth.

The chi-square tests were conducted to examine the relationships and significance of associations between variables. The results indicate that the Pearson Chi-Square test yielded a value of 16.907 with 4 degrees of freedom, and a two-sided asymptotic significance value of .002. Similarly, the Likelihood Ratio test produced a value of 16.207 with 4 degrees of freedom and an associated significance value of .003. Additionally, the Linear-by-Linear Association test resulted in a value of 15.358 with 1 degree of freedom, and a highly significant asymptotic significance value of .000.

These results suggest that there are statistically significant associations between the variables under investigation.

### 7.3 Data Analysis

Following is the result summary of each hypothesis:

No.	Hypotheses	Conclusion
H <sup>1</sup>	There is an association between crime reenactment shows and fear in youth of Lahore?	Accepted
H <sup>2</sup>	There is an association between the content of re-enactment programs and youth's inclination towards seductive activities.	Accepted
H <sup>3</sup>	There is an association between the content of re-enactment programs and promoting hatred toward crimes amongst youth.	Accepted

## 7. Discussion

Media crime re-enactment shows have become a potent influence on people's attitudes and behaviours related to crime and other issues. The survey responses, from a strong sample size of 600, provide insight into the complex effects of these shows on viewers' perceptions and behaviour.

The survey responses on changes in perceptions of crime and safety following the viewing of crime re-enactment shows evidence a significant change in attitude. A significant [38.7%] of participants expressed shifted perceptions, suggesting the impact of the immersive experience these shows generate. Further, [40.0%] of respondents expressed that they were likely to change their behaviour because of fear resulting from the shows. This highlights a link between television and behaviour in the real world.

The link between crime re-enactment shows and an increased fear of victimisation is evident with [33.0%] of participants reporting this effect. This

highlights the shows' capacity to evoke emotions and elicit fear of personal victimisation. Further, [34.0%] of the respondents indicated they've felt distrust or suspicion towards others based on the crimes portrayed. This highlights how these shows can impact personal relationships and breeding suspicion in the community. The survey also explored broader societal issues. In particular, [45.5%] of those surveyed agreed that crime re-enactment shows can foster hatred of crime. This awareness of the potential influence of media on society highlights the intricate relationship between media and social values. Respondents also provided insights into the significance of reporting punishment in crime re-enactment shows. [37.7%] of respondents agreed that stressing reporting punishment might promote hatred for crime.

This shows a sophisticated awareness of the possible consequences of media representations on public sentiment, with a focus on punishment leading to dislike.

The emotional resonance of crime re-enactment shows is reflected in [35.2%] of respondents feeling angry or disliking the crimes after watching these shows. This highlights the media's capacity to evoke strong emotions and create an emotional attachment to the topic.

Respondents' views on sharing information on social media about Pakistani crime shows also offer some clues. [33.7%] of participants agreed that these shows' graphic nature presents difficulties in sharing with family. This implies that suitability of media content is a factor in sharing and media-related discussions.

Attitudes towards the impact of crime re-enactment shows on young people's propensity to engage in seductive activities were also investigated. [42.0%] of participants agreed that the shows could foster these activities and [39.8%] reported a change in attitude or behaviour towards seductive activities as a result of re-enactment programs. This suggests a perceived relationship between media content and personal perceptions and attitudes.

Respondents' views on the vulgarity of the content for ratings demonstrate consumers' awareness. [32.8%] of respondents agreed that crime

enactment shows include explicit content for higher ratings, and [30.2%] expressed the inappropriateness of the thumbnails used for these shows on social media. These perceptions indicate a discernment of media content and its possible intentions.

As for the regularity of broadcasting sex-related crimes in the crime shows of Pakistan, [35.8%] of the respondents agreed, which can point to an awareness of this aspect. Further, [29.3%] of the respondents felt uncomfortable or disturbed by the sexuality presented in crime re-enactments shows. This indicates the potential for media content to cause discomfort and encourage reflection among viewers.

Attitudes towards being comfortable watching re-enactments crime shows with adult family members were also examined. [37.3%] felt comfortable, while [36.0%] thought these shows' content would have a negative psychological impact on viewers. These survey results highlight the relationship between comfort levels and psychological effects of media exposure.

The respondents' beliefs in the deterrent effect of tougher punishment on crime reflected varied viewpoints. [29.7%] agreed with this statement. Likewise, attitudes towards punishment reporting by crime re-enactment shows were varied. [37.7%] felt that by reporting punishment, it would encourage hatred of crime, while [14.7%] felt that reporting was for news value, not justice.

[55.3%] of respondents acknowledged the potential of crime re-enactment show content to promote dislike for crime. At the same time, [35.8%] felt that mandatory reporting of punishment in crime re-enactment shows could prevent crime, but this suggests a responsibility to promote accountability through media.

The emotional appeal of crime re-enactment shows also included feelings of anger or disgust towards crimes, reported by [35.2%] of participants. This underscores the power of these shows to evoke strong

feelings and potentially promote a greater awareness of the societal consequences of crime.

The detailed survey responses give us a complex picture of the effects of crime re-enactment shows on attitudes, feelings and social values. The shows have the capacity to influence individual attitudes, trigger emotional responses, and potentially contribute to the cultural discourse. The results highlight the intricate link between media representation and the development of individual and collective attitudes, and call for a more critical approach to the media we engage with and its possible impact on society.

## **8. Conclusion**

This study's results highlighted the interaction between the re-enactment-based crime shows and the attitudes, perceptions and behaviours of the youth. This discussion seeks to contextualize the findings in light of existing literature, theories and concepts, and to further understand the nature of the influence of these shows on the youth of Pakistan.

The findings suggest a strong impact of the crime re-enactment shows on the mental health of the youth. Watching violent and extreme shows can result in desensitization and normalization of violence, as per the Social Learning Theory (Bandura, 1977). This vulnerability of the youth to the crime and violence presented by these shows highlights the importance of the Cultivation Theory, which suggests that repeated exposure to media content influences individuals' worldview (Gerbner et al., 1986). The fact that a significant number of respondents reported shifts in their attitudes, fear, and behaviour toward crime and violence suggests the influence of media content on real behaviour, as supported by other studies (Surette, 2011).

This research uncovers a significant pattern in the marketing of explicit, sensational content by re-enactment crime shows. The Bandwagon Effect, which describes how people tend to join a crowd in adopting certain attitudes or actions, may explain the re-enactment-based crime shows' influence (Sunstein, 2002). Sensationalist thumbnails and explicit terms can shape perceptions of social norms, and may challenge traditional ethical norms of

media representation. The Bandwagon Effect might explain why media organizations engage in sensationalism to gain viewers at the expense of a distorted world and the creation of stereotypes (Shi & Lee, 2013).

## **9. Policy & Regulation**

This study's findings have implications for media regulation and production. The ban by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) of dramas depicting crime is a response to concerns about the potential negative effects of the content on audiences (Dawn News, 2016). The results suggest the need for more rigorous content guidelines to ensure that pornographic content is not used to sell products. Television stations should also take into account the possible impact of media content on society, particularly the young viewers.

## **10. Recommendations**

The influence of crime reconstruction dramas on the attitudes and behaviour of young adults calls for a stronger control on the content broadcasted on TV and online media. Media regulatory authorities such as PEMRA should continue to promote and implement guidelines to avoid crime and graphic content.

The researcher recommends that the media in Pakistan should have in-house training for reporters. Reporters and anchors need to be trained on what they are reporting. Rather than rating techniques, media needs to know about what not to report. Moreover, educational and media organizations should work together to design media literacy programs to educate young people with critical thinking skills that are in line with our social values. These programs should teach viewers how to differentiate between real and fake in crime re-enactment shows, and the possible effect of imitating the behaviour of the characters.

According to the researcher, the aim of Crime re-enactment shows should be to develop hatred of crime. The intriguing interviews of the criminals without knowing the facts and reality cannot be good for profession

and society. Researcher confirms that most of the times crimes are shown but the punishment is neglected.

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