

Mediation Role Of Crime-Show Impact Between Creating Awareness About Crime And Novelty In Crime

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Abstract

At this point in time, digital media is one of the most enjoyable forms of entertainment. A significant number of people watch television shows and are fascinated by the depiction of violent and criminal acts. A show focusing on criminal activity can impact a viewer's perception, judgment of reality, thought process, emotions, and behaviour. According to this point of view, the purpose of this study is to investigate the following: the influence of crime-show awareness (CSA) on crime-shows impact (CSI), the influence of crime-shows impact (CSI) on crime-show novelty (CSN), the detrimental effect of crime shows awareness on crime show novelty, and to investigate the mediating influence of crime show impact on crime show awareness and crime show novelty.

A cross-sectional research design is used for this study. Data is collected from 440 respondents using a well-designed questionnaire from 440 participants from Metro-cities of India through online mode from youth. AMOS 21 and SPSS 21 versions are used for data analysis and Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). The results revealed that there are significant predictive relations between CSA and CSI and between CSI and CSN. Also, there is no significant regression association between CSA in the presence of a mediator, while in the direct relationship, there was a significant association. It further confirms the full mediation of CSI between CSA and CSN. These findings could be used in mitigating the adverse effects of crime-show and in psychosocial intervention designs.

Keywords: Crime-Show Impact, Crime-Show Awareness, Crime-Show Novelty

1. INTRODUCTION

Digital media serve as a platform for entertainment, socialization, information, education, and commercial purposes (Berger, 2007), through images and messages (Gerbner, 1998). It has been more than a century since matter related to criminal activities has been included in media; earlier print media was the intense way to disseminate such content. Before the advent of digital media, print media, such as crime thriller novels, was a vital medium for influencing society's opinion and thinking pattern toward the criminal justice system (Surette, 2007). Even in print media, opinions were divided on the attribution of crimes; detective novels portray criminals as predators and losers; on the other hand, newspapers presented them as victims of the social system (Surette, 2007). For many people, audio-visual media is an essential source of crime-related information (Weitzer & Kubrin, 2004). However, the advent of social media has opened the possibility of fake news and mob violence. As a result, criminal cases are increasing, and television shows report crimes.

Sometimes the media also plays an important role in circulating fake news, especially digital media. Patra and Saha (2020) studied the role of media in circulating fake news. Based on Focus Group Discussions (FGD) with academicians and millennials and in-depth interviews with industry professionals, the study proposed a framework to look into the purposes behind the circulation of misinformation and enumerates certain guiding principles to frame policies to regulate its rise in various social media platform. Chetty and Alathur (2019) analyzed multiple resources, such as literature and social media sites like Twitter, to understand the influence and impact of honour-based hate content in India. Sharma et al. (2015) explored the factors that promote violence against women and the strategies to respond to it Watching a crime show on television (T.V.) and social involves a highly audio-visual medium to display the violence and function of the Police. It poses a higher intensity on the emotions of the audience than the reading of crime-related stories in print media (Weitzer & Kurbin, 2004

T.V. shows have become our ways of socializing and daily information. It dramatically affects our perception, so it becomes complicated to delineate the perception influences with the T.V. effect and without the T.V. effect (Gerbner, 1998). According to Brown (2003), crime shows, irrespective of the authenticity of their content — based on actual events or fictitious events or semi-fictitious events — they produce conceptual reality far from the research pieces of evidence.

The longer hours of watching crime show significantly influence perceiving reality (McQuail, 2010; Surette, 2007). Media exposure and viewership patterns also play a significant role in understanding the viewers' choices. Fonseca (2016) in the study concluded that there is a relationship between contemporary media exposure patterns and different audience characteristics. Audience characteristics like gender, age, education attainment, and employment strongly shape the choice of media technology like new technologies, Radio, and television.

The presentation of crime shows is so lively and vivid that the boundary between real and fiction is blurred, and audiences fail to identify the boundary and demarcate reality (Dowler et al., 2006). Gradually, crime shows become a mode of entertainment than a social issue (Fishman and Cavender, 1998). It has been seen that not only the content of crime shows but the way of presenting stories and contents powerfully shape the perception of audiences (Berger, 2007; Preiss, Gayle, Burrell, Allen, & Bryant, 2007). It happens because of the difficulty in separating fact and fiction from the blended content of crime stories, and consequently, audiences develop some myths about crime shows (Roush, 2008). Eventually, these myths impact the perception of audiences about the nature of crimes, criminals, and the entire (criminal justice system Kappeler & Potter, 2005). The television shows affect the ethics as well as moral values of the viewers. Karkowiak and Tsay (2011) examined the “propensity to morally disengage and the fictionality of a narrative affected individuals' acceptance of immoral behaviours and their overall enjoyment of a narrative”. The study's findings indicate that character liking mediates the relationship between moral disengagement and enjoyment. The technology is a boon to find out unethical or criminal acts. In a research study, Shriram et al. (2015) highlighted the flaws with the technology in a criminal investigation. They argue that in many situations, investigators have a sketch of the criminal, generated from the details given by the eyewitnesses. However, due to the availability of dense database environments, Accuracy and Speed become two important challenges for image searches. The television crime shows are using these technology which are the helpful to spread knowledge and guide the criminals. The television shows are aiming to earn revenue and high TRP but the impact of the television shows on viewers are important to study. Santana et al. (2015) showed how advertising and the content of television programs can be used together with business aims. Not only for the television shows but for the digital media, “Morality is important concern” Karkowiak and Tsay (2011). Khalailah and Kisswani (2015) found the gap between anti-trafficking efforts and the use of the internet in human trafficking.

Therefore, in the light of previous studies, this study attempts to evaluate the effect of crime show awareness on crime show impact and crime show related novelty. Also, how crime show impact influences the crime show novelty. As a result of convergence of media the television crime shows are available at smart phone and media exposure has increased. Pang (2018) investigates the relationship between the utilization of smartphone and social capital's formation and maintenance, uses and practices. The study demonstrates a strong linkage between smartphone use and social capital formation.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Crime-show awareness and crime show impact

Though before every crime show, there is a disclaimer and suggestion to use the discretion. Nonetheless, there is an effect of media, irrespective of its intention; McQuail (2010) defined it as cultivation theory. The cultivation theory encompasses three kinds of effects: cognitive, affectual, and behavioural (McQuail, 2010). Media can grossly change the opinion, ideology, and emotions through disseminated information (McQuail, 2010).

The main essence of cultivation theory to generate a distorted perception and beliefs about social reality, which is shown in T.V. shows (Gerber & Gross, 1976). According to Gerbner (1998), the effect of cultivation established due to long hours watching of the T.V. program, and this cultivation effect is lied deep in T.V. as a system rather a particular program. There are three pillars of cultivation theory that includes the cognitive effect, affectual effect, and behavioral effects. The cognitive effects encompass the police procedure, modus Operandi of criminals, evidence gathering, and many more. Affectual effects are faith injustice, bias against the legal procedure, and general opinion about the criminal justice system. Behavioral effects are alertness toward crimes, mapping resources for help during the crime, maintaining security, and generalizing the suspicion to the broader public. The term perceived reality is related to cultivation theory. Perceived reality is the measurement of the difference a viewer can observe between a real-life and life on the screen (Kim, 2007). However, such noted differences in real-life experience are because of the variability in the reality perception (Cohen & Weimann, 2000); these kinds of experiences are also called ‘resonance’ (Gerbner, 1998). Similarly, there is a concept called ‘magic window’ it means the belief of viewers about the way and source of delivery of the message. A consistent viewer of the T.V. show of violent content believes that the world is full of violence and hatred only (Gerbner, 1998). If the viewer related the content of the T.V. program with his/her own life, it is called ‘utility’. (Gerbner, 1998). According to the concept of ‘identity’, viewers find attachment with the character shown in the T.V. program, and that character becomes the part of the viewer (Gerbner, 1998). Coccia (2018) reported that there are negative influences on human behaviour by socio-economic inequality in country and society, resulting in unhappiness. This inequality and unhappiness are leading to aggressive behaviour and violent crime. Keeping the cognitive component of cultivation theory, the first proposed hypothesis and objectives are mentioned below -

H₁: crime show awareness will influence crime show impact.

O₁: To assess the influence of crime-show awareness on crime show impact.

2.2 Crime show impact and crime show novelty

A study conducted by Mukherjee and Mrinal (2018) shows that T.V. serials having a content of violence and crime greatly influence the thinking and behavior of children in a negative way. Media studies also confirmed that viewers of crime based T.V. shows get to know the loopholes of legal procedures along with the expansion of crime-related knowledge (Kadleck & Holsinger, 2018). A large study conducted by Baranowski, Burkhardt, Czernik, & Hecht (2018) used a mixed methodology having a control group to ascertain if there is any role of the crime-related show and forensic series to reinforce the potential criminal, the result of this study reveals that there is no supportive evidence to show the connection between watching of crime-related show and improvement in skills of committing crimes, it only raises the information related to criminal activities. A study conducted in Los Angeles on an assessment of perception of Black ethnicity involve in crimes found that repetitive watching of crime-related shows and crime-related news creates a bias and prejudice against black ethnicity. Viewers overgeneralize the whole ethnic community as criminals (Dixon, 2008).

This study took legal loopholes, advanced technology of committing crimes, the emotional reaction toward criminals in the construct CSN (Crime-show novelty). In the construct crime-show impact, we covered: preparedness, alertness, understanding of the criminal system.

In previous studies, there are conflicting pieces of evidence of crime-show novelty and crime-show impact. No study has undertaken to assess the association between crime-show impact and crime show novelty. Therefore, it is imperative to propose following hypothesis and objective -

H₂: Crime show impact will predict the crime show novelty.

O₂: To assess the influence of crime show impact on crime show novelty.

2.3 Crime-show awareness and crime show novelty

Holbert, Shah, and Kwak (2004) reported that The T.V. shows that Police are depicted in key roles strongly influence the fear and protective behavior among viewers.

The more extended hour glued to T.V. screens immensely affect the beliefs and perceptions about social reality, conditioned to how T.V. shows present (Gerbner, Gross, Morgan, Signorielli, & Shanahan, 2002). A study carried out in New York and Washington among 532 participants to assess the association of perceived risk and exposure to crime-related shows and news, this study suggested that there is a significant positive association between long hour watching of crime-related shows and perceived fear and risk; however, in this study, it was not clear, whether this perceived risk and fear was making citizen more alert and prepared or lowering their emotional wellbeing (Nellis & Savage, 2012).

In this view, following research hypothesis and objective is proposed:

H₃: Crime show awareness will determine the crime show novelty.

O₃: To assess the detrimental effect of crime-show awareness on crime show novelty.

2.4 Crime show impact, crime show novelty, and crime show awareness

Researchers working the media studies conceptualized the fear of crime, which is related to long-hour viewing of crime-show, and it is connected with cultivation theory. Fear of crime is the perceived threat of getting trapped in criminal activities; it is closely related to the perceived threat of victimization (Rader, May, and Goodrum, 2007).

Multiple research pieces of evidence indicated the impact of crime-show on the fear of crime attitude (Kim, 2007; Holbert, Shah, & Kwak, 2004). Further, this fear of crime is indirectly associated with self-assessment of victimization risk (Gerbner & Gross, 1976).

Alternatively, it is defined as the perceived risk, which is the likelihood of self-victimization (Rader et al., 2007). As a consequence, defensive behavior such as alertness, preparedness to deal with crime events is positively correlated with fear of crime (Rader et al., 2007).

In the previous studies, the link between crime-show awareness and crime-show novelty is established somewhat, however, it is not clear, if crime-show impact is mediating the relation between crime-show awareness and crime-show novelty. To test this assumption, the following hypothesis and objective is proposed -

H₄: Crime show impact will mediate the relationship between crime show awareness and crime show novelty

O₄: To assess the mediating influence of crime show impact on crime show awareness and crime show novelty.

3. CONCEPTUAL MODEL AND HYPOTHESIS

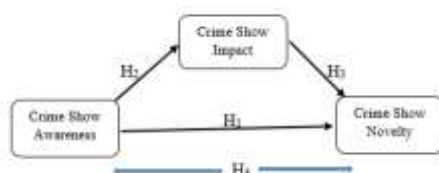


Figure 1. Conceptual framework

4. METHOD

4.1 Research design, sample and data collection

In this study, Cross-sectional research design is used and data is collected from 440 respondents using well-designed questionnaire from 440 participants from Metro-cities of India through online mode from youth. Google form is used to develop link that is shared through email and social media sites. Based on responses, only 440 responses are taken for data analysis from 500 responses collected because of incompleteness though attempt was taken for 600 responses. Finally, 73.33% of responses rate reported.

Of the 440 participants, most of them (91.8%) were males, and 8.2% were females. Respondents belonged to the adolescence and early adulthood – 51.6% were in the age group of 16-20 years, and the rest were in 12-15 years, adolescent age group. The participant of the adolescent age group had completed education up to intermediate (40.7%), and the early adulthood group had completed graduation and had joined post-graduation. The following sequential steps are followed in the process of questionnaire – items are included from systematic review of literature and social observation, Likert five-point scale is used for response collection (1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Neutral, 4= Agree, and 5 = Strongly Agree), pilot study is conducted with 60 responses (10% of targeted participants) then rectification in statement, simplification of language, deletion of inappropriate questions and addition in relevant statements are done based on pilot study results. Finally, data collection is done with revised questionnaire and revision is done on the basis of pilot study results.

4.2 Data analysis and statistical tools

This study used AMOS and SPSS of 21 versions for data analysis, and for applied structural equation modeling. It explained the two-way relations of correlation between independent and dependent variables and further applied simple regression and mediation analysis to ascertain the mediation role, direct-indirect effect, and path analysis (Asher, 1983).

5. DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

This section covers the details of measure used for this study along with reliability and validity of instruments followed by regression analysis to test proposed alternate hypotheses.

5.1 Measures

5.1.1 Crime-show awareness

Crime-show awareness (CSA) is taken as independent variable in this study. This is the first construct of the study – crime-show awareness consisted of 12 items. This variable consists of items related to awareness about crime like nature of crime, source of crime, helpful resources during and after crime, technological aspects of crime, adult behaviour and related knowledge updation. When these items were subjected to CFA (confirmatory factor analysis), results reported factor loading of more than the recommended value of .5 for all the items. Where the lowest loading is .57 and the highest is .74. Only a single item is reported with below .60. Therefore, we retained all items (Table 2).

5.1.2 Crime-show novelty

The second variable in this study is Crime-show novelty. It is taken as dependent variable (outcome variable). This construct comprised 16 items. The content of these items covered the emotional reaction of viewers to the crime show, which generates curiosity into poverty, low education, adverse socio-cultural condition, and use of drugs as provocative factors for crime. Also, these items enquired about the loopholes of legal procedures and advanced technology to come out from the criminal justice system. After the application of CFA, the factor loading ranged between .43 and .74. Only items attained the factor loadings above .70. Six items had achieved factor loadings above .40 but below .70. According to Matsunaga (2010), .40 is the lowest acceptable range of factor loading; therefore, we did not drop any item of this construct (Table 2).

5.1.3 Crime-show impact

Third variable of this study is Crime show. This variable is taken as mediator in this study. This construct includes 16 items. Items of this variables include relevant points under crime show impact – problems of the criminal justice system, the duty of the responsible citizen, preparedness to face an unseen situation, promotion of alertness and updation about prevailing trends of crime in society.

After executing the confirmatory factor analysis, all items of crime-show impact reached to factor loadings above .50 except one item whose loading was .48. We did not drop any item, firstly because the .48 factor loading of one item was very close to .50. Secondly, factor loading values equal to or above .40 are recommended to retain, as they are the lowest acceptable factor loading values (Matsunaga, 2010). The overall factor loadings ranged between .48 and .75. Six items achieved loadings above .70 (Table 1).

Table 1. Items of construct crime-show impact (CSI), factor loadings and status of retaining and dropping of items

S.N	Items (Effectiveness of Reality-based crime shows)	Factor loadings	Retained/dropped
1	I always like to watch the crime shows on T.V. (RBCS1)	.543	Retained
2	Likes to share the stories of reality shows with the people (RBCS2)	.484	Retained
3	Reality T.V. showsaware me about malaise in society (RBCS3)	.570	Retained
4	Covers crime and related stories in a better way (RBCS4)	.645	Retained
5	Highlights the fundamental problems of crime (RBCS5)	.671	Retained
6	Focuses on the alternatives to avoid crimes (RBCS6)	.657	Retained
7	Pings on individual responsibilities as a human being (RBCS7)	.745	Retained
8	Encourages individual to play his/her responsibilities (RBCS8)	.700	Retained
9	Motivates individual to evolve as a responsible citizen (RBCS9)	.706	Retained
10	Reveals individual to keep your eye open (RBCS10)	.669	Retained
11	Makes me emotionally strong (RBCS11)	.688	Retained
12	Develops my confidence to deal with the situation (RBCS12)	.729	Retained
13	Helps me to act boldly in a specified situation (RBCS13)	.757	Retained
14	Helps me to develop communication and interpersonal skills (RBCS14)	.720	Retained
15	Realize that appearance is more important than intelligence (RBCS15)	.543	Retained
16	Make more susceptible to use alcohol and smoke (RBCS16)	.543	Retained

Table 2. Items of construct crime-show awareness (CSA), factor loadings and status of retaining and dropping of items

S.N.	Items details (Awareness about new crimes)	Factor loadings	Retained/dropped
1	Awakes individual about malaise (CSA1)	.577	Retained
2	Provide knowledge (CSA2)	.680	Retained
3	Display individual role (CSA3)	.689	Retained
4	Aware of current crime happenings in India (CSA4)	.733	Retained
5	Helps me to know the nature of the crime (CSA5)	.664	Retained
6	Aware of the techniques used to conduct the crime (CSA6)	.654	Retained
7	Aware of the use of technology to conduct the crime (CSA7)	.683	Retained
8	Aware of the potential source of crime to happen (CSA8)	.704	Retained
9	Aware of the various precautions against the crime (CSA9)	.681	Retained
10	Aware of the help sources during the emergency (CSA10)	.744	Retained
11	Aware of unexposed events earlier in my life (CSA11)	.734	Retained
12	Aware of the adult behavior in the crime scene (CSA12)	.670	Retained

Table 3. Items of construct crime-show novelty (CSN), factor loadings and status of retaining and dropping of items

S.N.	Items details (New ideas of crime to criminals)	Factor loadings	Retained/dropped
1	The fixed sentence for a crime is better (CSN1)	.517	Retained
2	Relate yourself with the criminals (CSN2)	.701	Retained
3	Sympathy with criminal because of the situation (CSN3)	.740	Retained
4	Want the criminal to abscond from the Police (CSN4)	.618	Retained
5	Think of means from law and legality to come out (CSN5)	.704	Retained
6	Criminal are forced for criminal activities (CSN6)	.687	Retained
7	Poor education is responsible (CSN7)	.457	Retained
8	Economic condition is responsible (CSN8)	.493	Retained
9	Social factors are responsible (CSN9)	.579	Retained
10	Culture is key to criminal activities (CSN10)	.450	Retained
11	Usage of drugs and alcohol (CSN11)	.434	Retained
12	Censored topics of movie and reality show motivate (CSN12)	.435	Retained
13	Makes me aware of the techniques of crime (CSN13)	.452	Retained
14	Makes me more aware of the use of technology (CSN14)	.629	Retained
15	Makes me aware of the precautions during the crime (CSN 15)	.517	Retained
16	Feel that criminals should not be caught (CSN 16)	.701	Retained

5.2 Measurement model

The measurement model is tested for the measures used in this study. The result of this measurement model fitness is displayed in table 4. All fitness indices are within an acceptable range, which further confirms the validity of the results of CFA.

Table 4. Model fit summary of study variables

Variables	p	χ^2	df	χ^2/df	GFI	CFI	TLI	RMSEA	RMR
CSI	0.00	326.09	87	3.74	.90	.92	.90	.07	.04
CSA	0.00	244.74	33	4.61	.91	.92	.90	.09	.03
CSN	0.00	314.31	66	4.76	.90	.90	.87	.09	.07

Note. “CSI: Crime show impact, CSA: Crime show awareness, CSN: Crime show novelty GFI: Goodness of fit index, CFI: Comparative fit index, TLI: Tucker-Lewis index, RMSEA: Root mean square error of approximation, RMR: Root mean square residuals”

5.3 Regression analysis and hypothesis testing

In this study, regression analysis is executed at two stages: without a mediator and with a mediator. At the first stage, it is conducted the first regression analysis — without the mediator variable, which is a direct relationship between predictor (CSA) and the outcome variable (CSN) (Table 5). Whereas in the second stage, it is tested the indirect relationship with the mediator variable (CSI) (Table 6).

In testing the direct relationship between CSA and CSN, crime show awareness appeared a robust significant predictor of crime-show novelty. The strength of this prediction is evident from the high value of beta and 't' value (8.51), which is four times higher than the minimum significant critical value of 't' (1.96) (Table 5). The p-value (0.000) further confirms that hypothesis H3 is acceptable at a 99.99 confidence interval (Table 8).

Table 5. Regression analysis between crime show awareness and crime show novelty

Variable	direction	Variable	B	S.E.	*t' value	P
CSN	<---	CSA	.678	.08	8.51	0.000

Note. CSA: Crime show awareness, CSN: Crime show novelty, B: Estimate of beta, S.E.: Standard error of beta

The result of second stage testing is presented in table 6. The second stage testing reveals that the association between CSA and CSN is not statistically significant in the presence of mediator (B=.074, SE= .119, t = .627, p = .53); while indirect relationship there was significant association (B=.678, SE= .08, t= 8.51, p=0.000). Also, there is a significant predictive relation between CSI and CSA, and between CSN and CSI. It further confirms the full mediation of CSI between CSA and CSN (Table 6). And therefore, the hypothesis H4 is accepted (Table 8)

Table 6. Regression analysis of the proposed model without a mediator

Variable	direction	variable	B	S.E.	*t' value	P
CSI	<---	CSA	.943	.097	9.68	0.00
CSN	<---	CSA	.074	.119	.627	.53
CSN	<---	CSI	.574	.136	4.22	0.00

Note. CSA: Crime show impact, CSA: Crime show awareness, CSN: Crime show novelty, B: Estimate of beta, S.E.: Standard error of beta

However, there is significant predictive relations of CSA and CSI (B= .943, SE = .097, t = 9.68, r = 0.00) and between CSI and CSN (B= .574, SE= .136, t = 4.22, p=0.00) (Table 6). Therefore, hypothesis 1 and hypothesis 2 are also accepted at 99.99% confidence interval (Table 8).

Table 7. Fit indices summary of a structured model

Relations of the variables	P	χ^2	df	χ^2/df	GFI	CFI	TLI	RMSEA	RMR
Model without mediator	0.00	1694.49	345	4.91	.74	.78	.76	.09	.08
Model with mediator	0.00	3704.26	899	4.12	.90	.93	.92	.08	.07

Note. “CSI: Crime show impact, CSA: Crime show awareness, CSN: Crime show novelty, GFI: Goodness of fit index, CFI: Comparative fit index, TLI: Tucker-Lewis index, RMSEA: Root mean square error of approximation, RMR: Root mean square residuals”

Table 8. Result of hypothesis testing

Outcome variables	direction	Predictor variables	Meditation status	Inferences
CSI	<---	CSA	With mediation	H1 accepted
CSN	<---	CSA	With mediation	H3 accepted
CSN	<---	CSI	With mediation	H2 accepted
CSN	<---	CSA	Without mediation	H4 accepted

Note. CSI: Crime show impact, CSA: Crime show awareness, CSN: Crime show novelty

5.4 Structural model analysis

To support the findings of regression analysis and hypothesis testing, we computed the fit indices. The indices of both the models: with and without mediators, have shown an adequate level of fitness. The fitness of the model with mediator has shown better fitness than without mediator, because the value of GFI, CFI, TLI were $\geq .90$. Whereas in the model without a mediator, the values of GFI, CFI, and TLI were $< .80$. However, there are not many differences in the values of RMSEA, RMR, and χ^2/df of both the models. Also, fit indices in both the models are acceptable ranges. Nonetheless, the model with a mediator is stronger than the model without the mediator.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

The present study was conducted among the 440 youths of 16-20 years of the age group from Metro cities. Three constructs: crime-show awareness (CSA), crime-show novelty (CSN), and crime-show impact (CSI) were assessed and their inter-relations. The construct CSA encompasses expanding awareness of crime, its nature, source, and used technology. The CSN construct covered the emotional reaction of viewers, attribution of crimes, loopholes of the legal system, and innovation in criminal acts. The construct CSI covered entertainment, the responsibility of citizens, preparedness before the criminal act, and problems of the criminal justice system.

Even before the advent of the crime-show display at digital media, criminal stories were popular in print media, which generated divided views on criminal as perpetrators and victims (Surrette, 2007); the similar understanding tendencies were covered in CSN construct in this study. Since all the participants of this study were youth in their adolescence were easily emotionally influenced with crime-shows, because adolescents undergo hormonal changes and perceive different emotional reaction. In our study, we took entertainment as a small component of the CSI construct. Adolescents at a young age take crime show as a mode of entertainment, as similarly (Fisherman & Cavander, 1998) mentioned it. All three constructs of this study assessed the three components of cultivation theory: cognitive effect, affectual effect, and the behavioral effect as propounded by McQuail (2010). In the cultivation theory, viewers of crime-show cultivate new perceptions, thoughts, and beliefs distorting the reality of social life (Gerbner & Gross, 1976).

CSA appeared as a strong predictor of CSN in the direct relationship, this finding is in the harmony of a study conducted by Kadleck & Holsinger (2018), which says crime-show viewing enhances crime awareness as well as loopholes of legal proceedings. Whereas the research shreds of evidence produced by Baranowski et al. (2018) refuted the association of crime-show viewing and criminal act innovation; which goes against the finding of our study – CSA being a predictor of CSN. Loopholes of legal process and innovations in criminal acts are the components under CSN in our study. Dixon (2008) reported that watching to crime-show creates biased images against ethnic minorities. Bias is a cognitive effect as per (McQuail, 2010) and it is an emotional reaction, which is covered under CSN construct. Therefore, the findings of Dixon (2008) supports the direct strong relationship between CSA and CSN.

In this study, CSA is also a potential determinant of CSI, the research conclusion of Kappler & Potter (2005) support this finding. According to Kappler & Potter (2005), the opinions of crime-show viewers are a blend of myth and reality. Crime-shows telecasted on T.V. create a tremendous myth about the criminal justice system (Roush, 2008). This myth creation phenomenon can be explained by cultivation theory (McQuail, 2010). In our study, the opinion on the criminal justice system is covered in the CSI construct. Thus previous research supported that crime-show awareness is also linked with crime-show intention.

In our study CSI significantly influences CSN. Previous research shows that viewing crime-shows generates a negative impact on thinking and behavior while catering entertainment (Mukherjee & Mrinal, 2018). In our study, we took an entertainment component in CSI construct and emotional reaction in the CSN construct. Therefore, we can say, Mukherjee & Mrinal (2018) indirectly support the relation of CSI and CSN.

Protective behavior is covered as alertness and preparedness under the construct CSI in this study. An emotional reaction such as fear and perceived risk of exposure to crime, getting trapped, and fear of victimization are associated with crime-show awareness (Gerbner et al., 2002; Rader et al., 2007). Thereby, the predictive relation of CSI and CSN is supported. However, the fear of victimization and getting trapped in criminal activities is due to the problem of the criminal justice system and alertness (Rader et al., 2007). Also, the crime-show awareness creates a perceived risk which led to preparedness to face criminal activity. The problem of the criminal justice system is covered under the CSI construct, emotional reaction under CSN, and awareness under CSA construct. Therefore, CSI mediates the relationship between CSA and CSN and it is in line with the findings of Rader et al. (2007). Therefore, it is concluded that CSA is a potential predictor of CSI and CSN, while CSI is a determinant of CSN and mediate the relation between CSA and CSN.

6.1 Limitation, future direction and implication

The sample size was limited to a young age group. The variation in the socio-demographic profile of respondents could bring more insight. The qualitative approach could contribute to new facts. There are possibilities to add more topical and relevant variables in independent or mediating or outcome side to find more insight into it. Even interchange of role among proposed study variables is suggested in the future.

These findings could be used in mitigating the adverse of crime-show and in psychosocial intervention designs.

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