



Media Censorship Helps in Preventing Bad Influences on Children

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Looking back on the time when information exchange was done by means of flying pigeons, we consider the mass media, which we take for granted today, indeed a convenient luxury that ancient people could never even dream of. While the media nowadays provides the easy flow of information, I am in favour of media censorship as I believe that it can help in preventing children from learning things that might harm them.

Children can benefit from the free flow of information afforded by the mass media, and, by the same token, can learn things considered inappropriate for their age. For example, just before the Valentine's Day in 2015, the trailer of the movie "Fifty Shades of Grey" appeared everywhere on TV, on the internet and other forms of media. This movie was criticized for being characterized by sexual abuse content. Children who saw this trailer were thus exposed to distorted morality, feeling it socially acceptable to have a carefree sexual relationship. This case illustrates how the media can convey improper concepts that can ruin children's immature minds. On the other hand, if media censorship had been enforced, the case could have been prevented. In fact, all the information related to violence or pornography can be filtered out before children have access to it.

As shown in the case, children's minds are still immature and easily affected. Owing to

their inexperience and limited knowledge of the world, they lack the ability of judgment and tend to believe in everything that is shown to them. Moreover, they are easily tempted, their curiosity enhanced by their puberty hormones, to expose themselves to curious things, even harmful things. Without media censorship, they can have easy access to websites consisting of sex, violence or swearwords. These can have negative effects on their thinking and behavior as they grow up. Research has shown that many crimes related to children are committed after they have been exposed to websites spreading false and inappropriate information. For example, the two teenage girls in England who have joined the terrorist community IS are believed to have actually been brainwashed by a website related to Islam and "the Holy War". Therefore, the bad influence the media can have on children is beyond imagination.

One may argue that media censorship can restrict freedom of speech. However, from my point of view, there should be limitations on freedom. Children's safety and wellbeing should be given priority attention and they should be protected from harmful and untrue information. The most effective way to achieve the goal is by censoring the media.

Therefore, media censorship is necessary as it ensures the flow of 'healthy' information, thus protecting children from bad influences.