

media and violence have ever since been put in a relationship though sometimes there is no significant way to proof it. most parents who care about their children will not expose them to too much tv and especially not to violent tv shows. but nevertheless when kids grow older they find access. through friends whos parents do not controll them as much or through other sources, increasingly the internet. many young boys, having the higher testosterone level, have been seen as problematic children anyways, because our educational system is mostly ruled by women. they of course represent the female species and the female points of view. many female teachers think that boys are more aggressive, concentrate worse and do not do as good in school as girls do. they are perceived as impulsive, aggressive and sometimes even less intelligent. but why? it might be the case that education is more oriented on the female view and the female development, as any teachers do not think of boys as their primary audience or because they think that a shy, quiet and polite female student is a "better" student or more intelligent. violence in children and teenagers might be caused by so many factors that one can not determine the one that "give the ausschlag" if a perfectly happy child in a safe environment, happy at school and with a good relationship to the parents who care watches media violence he or she will not be very likely to go out and be violent towards other people/children

#### Scapegoat-ing the Media

With a growing number of violent acts committed by teenagers or young adults (for example in school massacres like Winnenden or several American high schools), our society has to raise and discuss the question of the reasons why these things happen more frequently nowadays.

Looking at the average tv programme and the video games most even pre-teenagers use daily, one can see that a lot of this stuff is not suitable for children or teenagers. Even a lot of adults would feel uncomfortable, being confronted with scenes and pictures that contain such an amount of violence, blood and hate messages. Now the question is: Do these games and films make our children crazy? Do they transform our little ones into little terrorists and murderers?

Let's take a close look at the way this discussion is taken: Politicians who see themselves confronted with the question of how to come up with a solution (law-wise) which does calm the parents and teachers but does not upset the left voters too much (in terms of being cut off from their free rights).

Parents who are scared that something could a) make their child an aggressive amokläufer or b) being killed by one. They feel like they cannot control all and everything what their children consume media-wise. Which is right and true and has always been that way. But with the internet as an easy source that almost guarantees access to any kind of forbidden and banned stuff, they are in a worse position than their parents were back then. The next group involved are the young people themselves; growing up (presuming you live in a first world country) with all varieties of media and access to almost everything they can imagine via the internet, they do not want to be restricted in any of their rights to choose their entertainment. Because they are a) not used to and b) feel a lot of peer pressure to put up with their peer group.

Every single group involved feels scared and thinks the other group is potentially dangerous to their own goal. In this context, no wonder all the research done up to this point, is very diverse. Every single study focuses on different aspects and a lot of them do not want plain research but proof for their theories, which makes it not really easy to do an objective job. So everybody taking part in the debate can choose a study to support their theory and underline their point of view.

So, if we cannot rely on the academics and scientists to tell us, what to do? Common Sense. Common sense tells me, for example when reading that exposure to a lot of media violence makes kids more aggressive, that this is not a surprise.

Not only because of the content, I think. A child who spends most of its time in front of a tv- or computer screen, socially isolated and in addition with little attention from the parents' side, will of course feel more aggressive, more depressive and less confident and satisfied than a kid in the opposite situation. What is meant to be said by this argument: Yes, of course media violence has an influence, yes we should watch our children carefully, especially in young years, when they use the internet or watch tv, BUT far more important is the parents' (and teacher's) relationship with the child. Children who feel accepted by their peers, protected and back-uped by their parents, respected and supported by their teachers, will not be turned into amokläufer by the consumption of violent video games and movies. It is nevertheless important to stay in communication with the children about this things.

Our society has to learn how to debate such issues honestly and with the intention to find the RIGHT answer to it, not to proof their own way of thinking. As long as children do not get the attention they need in our society and as long as there is a lack of tolerance, communication and will to really understand them, we will not solve problems like teenage violence. Not by introducing laws to ban all violent media (some of course are perfectly right where they are: in the Giftschränk), not by telling them that they are bad people if they watch that stuff and not by connecting the consum of horror films with lunatic bloodaddicted freaks who like to torture people.