

Talking About Violence on the TV: Turn Off the TV or Change the Family's Discipline Method!

– By Veijo Baltzar –

The debate regarding the removal of violence has been a recent topic of interest. I would also like to pose a few opinions in relation to the statement "Away with violence from our TV". With these words, one begins to wonder whether Finland's citizens are really so delicate that they can't watch TV if it shows violence.

Firstly, do these parents want their children to lag behind in their education? For if these parents are so protective then they should also forbid their children from all newspapers, all forms of news broadcasting, and keep them completely by their side if the remaining world is filled with violence.

Or does a portion of the people believe that if violence is no longer shown on the television that it will cease to exist all together? I don't think that the Finnish folk are weaker than others, that they have begun to identify themselves with some Al Capone or hard hero and re-enact their gangster tricks. I don't think at all that crime would increase.

Turn it off!

But if it is the case that these families don't want their children to see, for example, western series, they would be pleased to know that there is this small switch on the side of the tv which, if one flicks it, the TV will turn off.

For others, it is often so that such films with violence show so late in the evening that children are already sleeping in the families who really want to bring their children up in the right way. In my opinion, children in

ordinary families are no longer awake past nine o'clock in the evening. If it is the case that the children are awake past eleven o'clock or half past, then those families should begin bringing their children up in a way that brings them all closer together, instead of using the television.

Not the TV's responsibility

I think that it is the parents' responsibility to teach and protect their children. It is not the television's responsibility. At least, when I have my own children I will not be entrusting the television with such a responsibility. I will bring them up myself.

Those series which we talk about are also, in my opinion, made with good intentions and the goodness in them always prevails. If there is no fault with the child, then it could even be beneficial for the child to see such a program. For in its own way, such a program can open up the child's eyes and give them an open perspective of the world.

A restricted world

How should one bring up a child who has such a small view of the world, mothers and fathers? Such a restricted image of the world

just creates selfish people, who would later come to realise they have been unlucky. This can lead to, for example, a life of crime. In my opinion, a child who is affected so negatively by crime shown in such series is in some way sick.

It would be wrong against everyone who has bought a TV and paid an expensive price if they could no longer watch what they want. How could they know that it would become their responsibility to teach such children whose parents are not capable of taking care of them? Could one not turn to someone else other than the television?

Discipline within the family

I have asked others if their opinions of these kinds of series are similar to mine. I think that no one truly believes that these series disturb children. They also don't believe that we are so easily damaged.

But if we really are so bad that we, for example, can't put our children into bed before half past ten because we don't want them to watch tv, then it would be time to stop bringing up people who don't know anything of the world. In other words, children who only know their own family and can do as they like.