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Ban violent shows to reduce increasing crime rate

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PUBLIC attention has been drawn to the fact that there is an alarming rise of violence in our society. It is now quite common to see reports of crimes by youngsters. Teenagers and those in their early twenties are being detained for violent crimes such as assaults, murder and rape.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has given his opinion that there are too many foreign films associated with sex and violence.

Research has shown that exposure to media violence causes children to behave more aggressively, both immediately and when they are older.

In one study, children were found to behave differently after they had been watching violent programmes on television.

In the study done at the Pennsylvania State University, about 10 pre-school children were observed before and after watching television. Some watched cartoons that had many aggressive and violent acts while others watched shows that didn't have any violence.

The researchers noticed real differences between these two groups of children. Those children who watched the violent shows were more likely to strike out at playmates, argue, disobey authority and were less willing to wait for things than those children who watched non-violent programmes.

One cannot afford to turn a blind eye and let events take their course. Violent acts are not something that just takes place by chance.

It is the culmination of habits and behaviour developed over a lifetime, usually starting at a young age.

The culture of violence is already taking firm root in society.

The authorities should immediately ban shows that contain violence. Films that encourage good values in society should be promoted instead.

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