Study on the Influence of Crime Thriller Web Series on Students Residing as Paying Guest at Mangalore City

Mr. Shamil Hanan K, Mr. Roshan D'Souza

Student, Post Graduate Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, School of Social Work, Mangaluru, Karnataka
Assistant Professor, Post Graduate Department of Criminology and Forensic Science, School of Social Work, Mangaluru. Karnataka

Abstract—**This study investigates the psycho-sociological impact of crime thriller web series on students residing as paying guests in Mangalore city. The primary focus is to assess how these series influence viewers' behavior, emotional responses, and perceptions of crime, safety, and law enforcement. By examining the preferences and levels of fascination of millennial viewers—especially their engagement with crime thrillers—the research aims to uncover the genre's popularity among youth and its broader psychological implications. The study also explores gender-based differences in perception, reactions to intense content, and the extent to which crime-based narratives foster feelings of fear, vulnerability, or behavioral imitation among students.**

A descriptive research design was employed, with data collected from 100 participants through a structured questionnaire comprising both close- and open-ended questions. Purposive sampling targeted students living as paying guests in Mangalore, ensuring relevance to the study's social context. The methodology included the analysis of demographic variables, viewing habits, genre preferences, and subjective experiences after consuming crime thriller content. Data were processed using Excel and SPSS for statistical interpretation. The findings offer valuable insights into the media consumption patterns of young adults and contribute to the discourse on media influence, emphasizing the need for responsible content engagement and media literacy among youth.

Keywords—**Psycho-sociological, Genre, media consumption, victimization, paying guests**

I. INTRODUCTION

The digital revolution has significantly reshaped the entertainment industry, with the advent of smartphones and affordable internet making web series a dominant form of content consumption, especially among the younger generation. Platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, and others have made it possible for people from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds to access a variety of genres. This democratization of content has fostered the rise of innovative storytelling, with web series tailored to meet the evolving tastes of Gen-Z audiences, who increasingly favor engaging, on-demand, and culturally relevant narratives.

Among the wide spectrum of web series genres, crime thrillers have emerged as a particularly popular category. These series are characterized by suspenseful storylines, complex characters, and psychological intrigue. The flexibility of the web series format—shorter episodes, creative freedom, and lack of time constraints—has enabled content creators to explore nuanced portrayals of crime, justice, and moral ambiguity. Crime thrillers often address contemporary issues, weaving together elements of realism, drama, and social commentary that resonate with audiences.

This genre's intense and often dark content, while captivating, raises important questions about its impact on viewers, particularly impressionable youth. Web series can influence how individuals perceive societal norms, law enforcement, and safety. Although they may promote critical thinking and awareness, they can also unintentionally glorify violence, distort reality, or evoke fear and anxiety. These effects necessitate a deeper understanding of the psycho-sociological implications of such content, especially when consumed regularly by students during formative years.

The present study focuses on students residing as paying guests in Mangalore city, a demographic highly exposed to digital content. It seeks to explore their perceptions, behavioral responses, and emotional engagement with crime thriller web series. By examining gender-based differences, viewing habits, and psychological effects such as fear of victimization, the study aims to provide insights into how this genre shapes youth attitudes and behaviors. Understanding these patterns is crucial for promoting

media literacy and encouraging responsible media consumption among students.

II. METHODOLOGY

Research methodology encompasses techniques used to find, select, process, and analyze information on a given subject. It provides a structured framework that guides researchers in conducting investigations, interpreting results, and drawing meaningful conclusions. The present study aimed to examine the psycho-sociological impact of crime thriller web series on students residing as paying guests in Mangalore city.

The present study has been taken up with following objectives

- The main objective of the study is to identify the effect of crime thriller web series and their psycho-sociological impact on students residing as paying guest at Mangalore city.
- To study the effect of crime reality shows on viewers with regard to fear of victimization and sense of vulnerability.
- To identify the differences in perceptions, effects and expectations between female viewers and male viewers, if any.
- To find out the preferred genre of web series by students.

For this purpose, 100 students residing as paying guests in Mangalore city were selected as the research universe. A descriptive research design was employed, and data were collected using a structured questionnaire consisting of both close-ended and open-ended questions. The sampling technique used was non-random purposive sampling, focusing specifically on students meeting the inclusion criteria while excluding those living in hostels, own homes, or outside Mangalore.

Data coding involved assigning numerical values to participants' responses, and analysis was conducted using Microsoft Excel and SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). The results were interpreted and presented through tables and charts to illustrate demographic patterns, genre preferences, behavioral outcomes, and perceptions related to crime thriller web series consumption.

III. DATA INTERPRETATION

Data analysis is the process of methodically assessing data using reasoned techniques and drawing objective conclusions. Bivariate table data has been cross-referenced for interpretation using methods like inference and statistical analysis.

1. Age of the respondents and Ever influenced to try out behaviours in crime thriller web series

Exploring the gritty world of crime thriller web series can be an adrenaline rush, it is natural to be intrigued by the edgy actions of protagonists, but that fascination should fuel the imagination, not your actions. Age can sometimes blur the line between fiction and reality, making it crucial for younger viewers to have open conversations with adults about separating fantasy from real-life consequences. These series ignite the creativity of young viewers, not the inclination towards risky behaviors.

Age	Ever influenced to try out behaviors in crime thriller web series		Total
	Yes	No	
Under 18	1%	1%	2%
18-19	3%	6%	9%
20-21	10%	20%	30%
22-23	7%	27%	34%
24-25	3%	12%	15%
Above 25	1%	9%	10%
Total	25%	75%	100%

The study reveals that 34% of respondents are between 22-23 years old, 30% are between 20-21 years old, 15% between 24-25 years old, 10% are above 25 years old, 9% are 18-19 years old, and 2% are below 18 years old. 25% of respondents tried actions influenced by crime thriller web series, but 75% did not. Cross-related data shows that 10% of respondents aged between 20-21 tried behaviors inspired by crime thriller web series, while 7% tried and 3% tried behaviors aged 24-25 and 18-19. Only 1% of respondents under 18 and above 25 years were influenced. Among the 75% who never tried

behaviors, 27% were aged 22-23, 20% were between 20-21 years old, 13% aged 24-25 years old, 9% above 25 and 6% aged 18-19 years old. Only 1% below 18 never tried behavior. The study concludes that most respondents, regardless of age, are not influenced by crime web series to try out behaviors.

2. Gender of the respondents and effect of web series on students

The influence of web series on students varies by gender, affecting perceptions of relationships, body image, and social behavior. Both genders can experience impacts on academic performance and mental health from excessive screen time. Web series can shape students' attitudes towards gender roles and stereotypes, impacting their views on relationships, career aspirations, and societal expectations. The portrayal of diverse characters and narratives can broaden perspectives, but unrealistic depictions may reinforce harmful stereotypes and influence behavior both positively and negatively.

Gender	Effect of web series affect students				Total
	Positively	Negatively	No significant impact	Both impact	
Male	16.0%	7.0%	3.0%	2.0%	28.0%
Female	21.0%	23.0%	22.0%	2.0%	68.0%
Non-binary	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Prefer not to say	1.0%	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%
Total	39.0%	32.0%	25.0%	4.0%	100.0%

The study reveals that 68% of respondents are female, 28% are male, 3% prefer not to disclose their gender, and 1% is non-binary. The data on the effect of web series on students shows that 39% of the audience responded positively, while 32% had a negative effect. 25% said no significant impact would occur, and 4% believed both effects were present. Cross-related data showed that 23% of female and 7% of male audiences, along with 2% who preferred not to say their gender, responded that web series had a negative impact on students. Similarly, 21% of female and 3% of male respondents said the series had no impact. Despite this, 2% of both genders answered that chances of both impacts were present. The study reveals that 39% of respondents, regardless of gender, responded positively to web series, with females stating a negative impact on students.

3. Gender of the respondent and Scared or paranoid after watching particular intense crime thriller episode

Exploring gender's influence on post-viewing fear or paranoia in intense crime thrillers reveals insights into societal norms, individual responses, and mental health. Gendered representations in media affect audience engagement and perpetuate stereotypes. Understanding this intersectionality informs broader discussions on media effects and identity construction. Considering contextual factors enriches comprehension of how individuals interpret and react to media content, contributing to a nuanced understanding of societal dynamics and psychological well-being.

Gender	Scared or paranoid after watching particular intense crime thriller episode		Total
	Yes	No	
Male	9.0%	19.0%	28.0%
Female	40.0%	28.0%	68.0%
Non-binary	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%
Prefer not to say	1.0%	2.0%	3.0%
Total	51.0%	49.0%	100.0%

The study reveals that 68% of respondents are female, followed by 28% male, and 3% prefer not to say their gender. 51% felt sacred or paranoid after watching an intense crime thriller episode, while 49% did not. Cross-related data shows that 40% of females and 9% of males felt scared, followed by 1% of both non-binary and those who prefer not to say their gender. However, 28% of females, 19% males, and 2% of those who prefer not to say their gender did not feel scared or paranoid after watching an intense crime thriller episode. The study concludes that 51% of respondents felt scared or paranoid after watching an intense crime thriller episode.

4. Gender and Preferred genre of the respondents

Analyzing the importance of "Gender and Preferred Genre of Web Series" offers valuable insights into media consumption patterns, gendered preferences, and societal influences. Understanding how gender shapes individuals' choices in web series genres can illuminate broader cultural trends and gender dynamics in media consumption. Insights derived from this analysis can inform content creators, marketers, and policymakers about audience preferences and assist in developing targeted content strategies. Additionally, exploring gendered preferences can uncover underlying factors such as socialization, identity construction, and representation in media, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of gendered experiences in contemporary digital culture
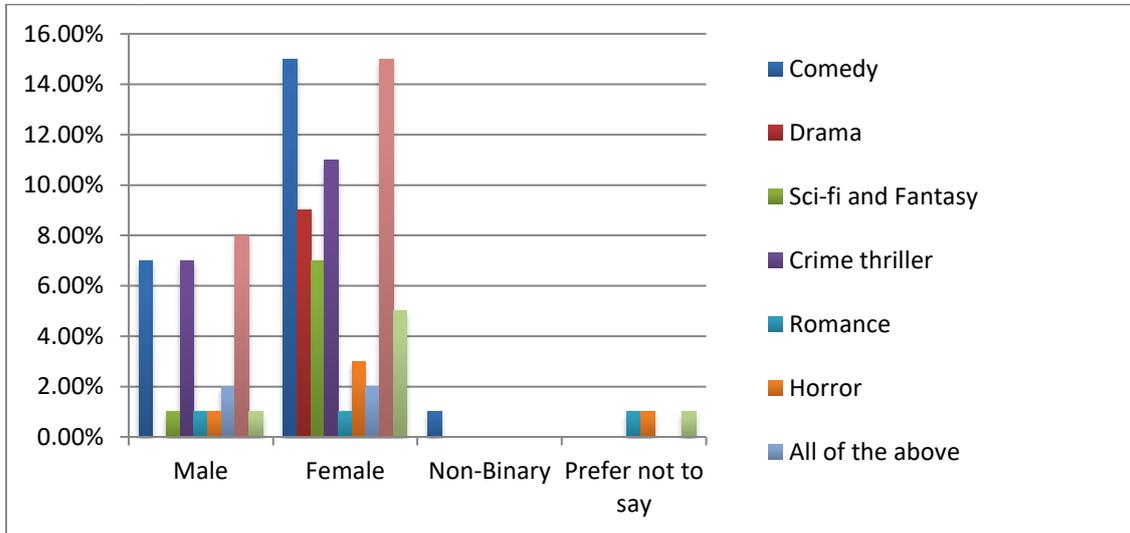
The study reveals that 68% of respondents are female, followed by 28% male, and 3% prefer not to say their gender. The preferred genre of the audience in web series is comedy, followed by crime thriller, and 23% more than one genre. The data also shows that 9% prefer drama, 8% prefer science fiction or fantasy, 7% prefer horror, 4% prefer all genres, and 3% prefer romantic web series. In terms of gender preferences, 8% of male audience prefers more than one genre, 7% prefers comedy, and 7% prefers crime thrillers. 1% of male audience prefers science fiction or fantasy, horror, romantic, and more than one genre excluding crime thriller. 2% prefer all genres. Among 68% female audience, 15% prefer comedy and more than one genre including crime thriller. 11% of the total population only prefers crime thriller. 9% prefer drama, 7% on science fiction or fantasy, and 3% on horror. 5% of female audience prefers more than one genre, other than crime thriller. 2% of female audience prefer all genres, and 1 person on non-binary audience prefers comedy. The study reveals that the majority of respondents prefer crime thriller (41%) and comedy (18%).

IV. MAJOR FINDINGS

- The most preferred genre of web series by students is crime thriller followed by comedy.

- A good amount of audience watch or read crime related programs and books
- Evening (6pm-12am) is the most preferred time to spent on media
- Majority of students watch crime thriller web series few times a week
- Most of them recommend crime thriller web series to others
- Half of the population felt scared or paranoid after watching violent web series
- Audience predominantly have the opinion that crime web series sometimes accurately depict real life scenarios
- Most of them never tried out behaviours inspired from crime web series
- Watching crime thriller web series have no significant impact on their academic performances or daily routine
- Majority of the respondents have change in perception on safety and security after watching crime thriller web series
- Most of them have pointed out that crime web series have negative impact on audiences especially on young viewers
- An analysis on the crime web series are required

- The portrayal of law enforcement in crime thriller web series influences the perception of real-life law enforcement
- Occasionally audience take breaks from watching crime thriller web series due to their intense or disturbing content
- Depends on the series they glorify criminal activities

V. SUGGESTIONS

The study indicates that there is an increase in audience for crime thriller web series among students. Thus, an analysis on the crime web series, proper guidelines to the audiences on the differences between reality and visual arts. How long to watch series and when to take breaks, need to be understand by the viewers. In my opinion, in academics, a subject on how to explore arts like movies, paintings, and all other creative arts in a proper way and how to enjoy them need to be instructed.

VI. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, it can be expressed that, there is a good amount of audience for crime thriller web series among students residing as paying guest in Mangalore city. It has less impact on their academic studies and daily routines. Audience felt scared or paranoid after watching violent episodes and majority have change in perception on safety and security after watching crime web series. Most of the audience didn't try out any behaviour inspired from crime thrillers. But this influences the views about real life law enforcements. Though there are some negative sides of watching web series, it can be actually beneficial if utilized in a proper way.

REFERENCE

[1] Nicole M. Sachs , Beth Adubato (2022) "Crime in TV, the News, and Film: Misconceptions, Mischaracterizations, and Misinformation" https://www.researchgate.net/publication/361512124

[2] Mudassar Abdullah, Nik Adzrieman Abd Rahman (2017) "Effects of TV Crime Shows on Behavioural Development of Children" SHS Web of Conferences https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313271014

[3] Zaheer Ud Din Babar, Sadaf Zahra (2017) "Exploration of Public Perception regarding Crime Raid Shows of Pakistani TV News Channels: An Ethical Perspective" Global Mass Communication Review https://www.researchgate.net/publication/348356209

[4] Debasish Rout1, Dr. Somabhusana Janakiballav Mishra (2021), "Impact of web series in ott platform on the youth in bhubaneswar city"https://ijrti.org/papers/IJRTI2111002.pdf

[5] Dr. Archana Chanuvai Narahari & Ms. Sonali Mukherji (2018), "Effects of crime reality shows on indian viewers - a study"https://ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT1801229.pdf