

To what extent do diverse cartoons have an impact on children’s development and identity?

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Abstract

To examine to what extent diverse cartoons impact young children’s development and identity formation, including attention, behavior, moral understanding, thinking/learning skills, creativity, and emotional development

Introduction

Children are exposed to cartoons at a young age, and it has become part of their daily routine. They constantly watch cartoons without filtering what is good or bad for them. Cartoons often include themes such as problem-solving, emotions, and social interactions, which may shape how children think and behave. However, some cartoons might not have these beneficial aspects and include unnecessary information that might negatively influence their development. Early childhood is a critical stage for developing attention, behavior, creativity, and emotional understanding. Not all cartoons have the same impact, and there is limited research on how different types of cartoons affect children’s development and identity. Being able to understand these effects is important for parents, educators, and media creators

Methods

A quasi-experimental design was used with kindergarten students. Students were randomly divided into two groups: one group watched a children’s cartoon and the other did not. Both groups completed a follow up activity that tested their skills

- Quasi-experimental design
- Two groups (cartoon vs. no cartoon)
- Classroom setting
- Observational data collection
- Follow up activities measuring: Attention; Behavior; Moral understanding; Thinking/Learning skills; Creativity; Emotional development

Objectives

- Examine the impact of cartoons on children’s development and identity
- Observe behavioral differences between cartoon and non-cartoon groups

Limitations

- One classroom participated
- Prior cartoon exposure not controlled

Conclusions

- Media plays a role in early identity development
- Action and Fantasy cartoons had the greatest impact

Implications

- Parents should control the media content that their children watch
- Cartoons can be used as a learning tool
- Media can design more developmentally beneficial and at the same time entertaining content

Discussion

This study suggests that diverse cartoons can have measurable impact on children’s development and identity. Children who were exposed to cartoons demonstrated stronger creativity, social interaction, and emotional development. These findings support my idea that media is not just entertainment for children but can influence how they behave, think, and interact with others. Cartoons that included problem- solving as well as constant audience engagement and creativity showed that they more positively contribute to early childhood development than other cartoons

Results

Students who watched the cartoon showed higher engagement, better creativity, and emotional expression. Action and Fantasy cartoons showed the best results amongst all of the cartoon categories

References

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