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A Systematic Review of Family and Media Research
(With a Specialization in Virtual Social Networks, Cinema, and Television)

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
Article type: Research Article **Article history:** Received: 29 August 2024 Received in revised form: 7 October 2024 Accepted:18 November 2024 Published online: 30 December 2024 **Keywords**: *Family, Media, Social Networks, Television and Cinema, Meta-Analysis, Thematic Analysis.*	**Introduction** The objective of the present study was to examine family and media studies, with a particular focus on virtual social networks, cinema, and television. Despite the fact that there is no theoretical consensus regarding the acceptance of all theories, numerous models of media influence have been identified and the subject of numerous research studies in this field. The theory of media dependence is one of the theories that have been mentioned. It is contingent upon social, economic, and cultural factors. The influence of the media is contingent upon the audience and the significance of the message, as well as the manner in which individuals utilize the media. The media and their messages are more likely to be effective, the more intensive the dependence, and the greater the need (Defleur & Ball-Rokeac, 1975: 261). The subsequent theory is Manuel Castells' theory, which has exhaustively explored the role of communication technologies, especially the Internet, in the recruitment and expanding the power of social movements. Castells emphasizes that the novelty of new electronic media makes it challenging to accurately evaluate their impact on society's culture. He is of the opinion that the fundamental changes that are imminent may result in the emergence of new social and cultural trends (Castells, 2023: 427). The theory of planting underscores the progressive and long-term impacts of the media, particularly television, on the formation of the audience's mental image of the world around them and their understanding of social reality. Due to the media's extensive influence on the family institution, there has been limited research on the representation of media categories and their impact on the family. **Methodology** "Meta-analysis" and "theme analysis" are the two methodologies employed in the present investigation. The primary rationale for selecting these two methodologies is to perform a systematic review of the research conducted in the field of media and family, as well as to organize the themes employed in this field. These two methods enable the classification of all significant materials and fundamental results of the investigated research in a more comprehensive manner, thereby enabling the achievement of an appropriate summary. In the initial stage of the meta-analysis section, the research topic was defined as the systematic examination of research that has been conducted with a focus on the family and the media. The second stage involved the systematic collection of studies conducted in the desired subject matter from 13 quarterly journals in the field of media and family. The keywords used in the collection were "family," "woman," "man," "youth and teenager," "life," and "child." The articles' "media" were identified. Targeted and extracted were 93 articles that were published between 1386 and 1403. The third stage of the descriptive-statistical analysis involved the collection of articles. The analysis included 42 articles in the field of "social networks," 41 articles in the field of "television," and 10 articles in the field of "cinema," as

indicated by the high volume of articles based on the frequency of articles in the three areas. The fourth stage involved the collection of the requisite information from each of the selected researches. This information encompassed the 95 studies that were extracted, including the name of the article, the name of the authors, the year of publication, theories, methods, and results. Ultimately, the research was categorized. Subsequently, qualitative data underwent thematic analysis.

Results

In the present study, it was determined that 7 publications have a scientific research rating and 6 publications have a scientific rating, out of 12 media scientific publications and 1 family scientific publication. The "Scientific Journal of Media" has been the most frequently produced journal in the field of family and media. Articles in TV format were categorized into three categories based on the coding stage: 84 fundamental themes, 12 organizing themes, and 5 overarching themes. Theme analysis was conducted. 41 fundamental themes, 6 organizing themes, and 3 overarching themes were acquired through cinema. Articles in the field of social and virtual networks were acquired, which included 245 fundamental themes, 15 organizing themes, and 4 comprehensive themes.

Conclusion

The institution of the family in Iran is profoundly and multifacetedly impacted by modernity and the media. The following are examples of these value changes: de-traditionalization, the deterioration of kinship relationships, the empowerment of women, changes in family roles and responsibilities, the increasing importance of individualism, the increase in awareness and information, and variations in lifestyles. These developments suggest that a period of cultural and social transition is underway, necessitating proper management and attention to preserve family unity and advance positive values. The findings indicated that the articles in the fields of cinema, television, and social networks share five common themes. 1. The importance of observing the Iranian Islamic lifestyle (151 themes); this lifestyle contributes to the development of religious convictions, the reinforcement of faith, and the proximity of individuals to elevated moral and human values; 2. It is imperative to consider the identity of men and women (79 themes). The family, as a social institution, can maintain and strengthen family values, establish positive role models, prevent the deterioration of traditional roles, enhance dignity and respect, address negative cultural influences, promote mental and emotional health, encourage responsibility and commitment, and foster family solidarity and cooperation; 3. The necessity of enhancing family cohesion and relationships (66 themes); the foundations of a strong and stable society are formed by cohesive and committed families, which are instrumental in the advancement and development of society; 4. The necessity of focusing on media literacy (12 themes); the attitudes, behaviors, and values of individuals, particularly children and adolescents, are significantly influenced by the media; 5. The importance of considering the function and position of children and teenagers within the family (10 themes) Focusing on the function and position of children and teenagers within the family not only promotes their personal growth and development, but also fortifies the family and society. Consequently, the family, which is one of the most significant social institutions in all societies, is essential in the provision of emotional and physical support to its members and the instruction of life skills.

References

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