

Reality TV Shows in the Arab World: Star Academy Impacts on Arab Teenagers

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Abstract

Reality T.V programs are now invading the Arab world and are attracting viewers of all ages, most specifically Arab teenagers. Being live programs taken from real life situations, Reality TV shows feature and monitor the emotions and behaviors of those who are usually involved for the purpose of winning a prize. However, the question to be asked is to what extent such programs are affecting teenagers, being the most susceptible audience. This paper has many objectives including: assessing the authenticity of the television programs; probing the extent the image reflected by talent-contestant shows, namely Star Academy, is affecting teenagers' life; and, assessing what major role Star Academy plays in motivating and influencing the teenage audience. This research is exploratory and uses a quantitative approach; it relies on the use of a survey questionnaire addressed to a convenient sample of 300 teenagers. Findings are to help educators and policy makers to plan for mediations to reduce the negative influences of such programs, and to capitalize on the opportunities that result from free-will decisions.

Keywords: Lebanon, Reality TV, Star Academy, talent contestant shows, teenagers, cultural impact