

Sisimpur is the perfect example of a suitable TV programme for kids. PHOTO: STAR FILE

Kids See, Kids Learn

Children learn by example. Our habits and attitude shape theirs. If we behave rudely with others, they will learn to be rude. If we view books with disdain, they too won't learn how to love reading. Similarly, if we spend all our free time in front of the TV watching inane shows, they too will be motivated to watch them.

"My grandmother loves watching serials on Zee Bangla and Star Plus. Sometimes I watch them with her because I think the lead actors are very good looking," says nine-year old Lina.

When asked about her favourite show, Lina shyly says that she likes watching a Hindi-language television serial called "Qabool Hain" on Zee TV. The show is about a girl who runs away from a marriage but circumstances force her to enter into an unwanted alliance. The show is a big success amongst adults and kids alike.

"Children are usually attracted to TV serials because their family members watch them. They learn from their family. This interest in Hindi serials is definitely a part of a faulty learning process," says Haque.

Often parents and other family members complete all their chores before their favourite show is aired.

"Most television serials like to sensationalise issues. Hypocrisy, lies, conspiracy; these are the mainstay of most Hindi soap operas. Children can't discriminate between right and wrong or what is acceptable and unacceptable the way mature adults can. Even though, the family dynamics shown in these shows are quite abnormal, children often begin to believe that real life is an imitation of the TV and vice-versa," says Haque.



Children often imitate television characters. What do shows like "Gossip Girl" have to offer them?