

Early Childhood Education: A Stage of Socialization and Moulding the Mind towards Education

¹Jahida Khatun & ²Dr. Debabrata Debnath

¹Research Scholar, Department of Education, University of Gour Banga, Malda (India)

²Professor, Department of Education, University of Gour Banga, Malda (India)

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ABSTRACT

The age we live in is a modern age. This age is a highly competitive period for all nations of the world. India is not outside the periphery of the existing modernity and the global competition to retain its position in the world in various fields of knowledge, discovery and invention and enrichment. Education is the basis of development for a nation in all fields of progress and prosperity, and children from the foundation of this process. Effective and proper education to children is sure to lead a nation to creative its aims and objectives related to its effort of development in social life, in the arena of high quality education and in the enrichment of literary creativity.

Education to children should be the top priority for a nation in its endeavour to develop itself in all fields of progress and prosperity. If children are educated, development is an automatic result. The history and statistics of developed nations of the world reveal that supreme importance has been attributed to children education since the early stage of childhood. Education to children was once neglected in India, and after many years of its independence the national leaders have realized that all children must receive education and not child should left out of the arena of schools. Right to Education Act, 2009 is a right and effective effort of India in this direction.

Early childhood education exercises a powerful learning, socializing and mind-moulding towards education influence upon children. It acquaints children with the manners and behaviors of social life, strengthens their language acquisition skills and creates abiding interest in them to receive education. They are motivated to participate in school education. Early education sharpens and strengthens children's learning mind and interest and creates so deep love for schools and education that they will not normally dropout of schools. Above all, education, if properly and effectively imparted to children at their early stage, will definitely discourage and prevent school dropout. The role of parents is crucial in paving the way for effective early childhood education.

1. Introduction

Child mind is very sensitive to learning. It is highly inquisitive and exceptionally receptive. The learning of a child starts with its birth. The brain of a child captures and stores what the child once feels, sees and perceives. The more a child sees the more it is exposed to the learning environment, the more its mind and brain are sensitized and the more it learns. The child's learning capacity gradually increases, the scope of its learning mind widens and the receptive power of its brains grows stronger, as it grows in age. It is a valuable and important duty and responsibility of parents, especially of the mother, to take special care to direct the child mind towards positive learning – systematic learning to step into the world of knowledge, into the social life, into the stage of the acquisition of human qualities and into the stage of gradual self-enrichment.

2. Roles of Parents and Family

Parents pave the ground for children's education at the early stage of childhood. They are their teachers at home they imitate parents to learn language and culture, manners and behaviors, and social etiquette and moral values of life. The development of children's language skills begins at home. Children are found to acquire good mother tongue if parents

use refined language. It is necessary to help them pick good language effectively, for language is the basis of learning and education. Children learn or acquainted with culture through language since language is the career of culture.

Parents are required to interact with their children in matter of all knowledge and experiences relevant and suitable to them. This will not only enrich their knowledge but also activate their learning mind. Parents, for children, are the ideal models of human beings they imitate parents and their qualities. It is said that as are parents so are children. Parents instil into them the principal of morality and teach them moral values through their behaviors, daily activities and decisions and judgments which their children gradually internalize.

Parents exercise a powerful influence upon their children to be highly interested in learning and education. They stand for the motivating force for their children to join schools to receive education to shine in life. Parents sow the seed of learning and education in children in the pre-stage of school education and teacher in the early stage of childhood education water and nurture the seed to germinate and grow into a luxuriant plant. The success on the parts of both parents at home and teachers at school in effectively motivating children in their early childhood education will create strong

interest in them to receive education and to continue it. The school will, for them, be a place of joy and special attraction. Education and learning for them will be a matter of joy, not of burden. This will prevent school drop-out which is a vexing problem for the country and hinders the attainment of the national goal of universalization of elementary education.

3. Roles of School and Teachers

Parents care children's learning mind school shapes it and teachers beautify it. In school teachers are required to create a homely atmosphere which is conducive to children's mentality to identify themselves with the institution. The children are required to be exposed to various interest-creating and motivation-arousing situations which will not only attract their mind and attention but also inspire them with inventive desire. Child mind is curious; in their curiosity is hidden their desire to know what is still unknown to them. The developed infrastructure of school is one of the major factors that will prove to be a special attraction for children. This will create a feeling of love and interest towards the school in them. They will love them as much as they love their homes. They will feel here safe as much as they feel at their homes. Every object of the school will stir their mind and stimulate their learning desire. They will gradually think that they are the inseparable part of the school they belong to.

The teacher plays a crucial role in shaping children's mind in the process of learning and receiving education. For children, the teacher is the store house of knowledge. They believe that their teacher knows better than anybody in the society. For them, he is an ideal man with all good qualities of head and shoulders. They repose full confidence in him. The teacher must have true human qualities that children will imitate and acquire them. Their qualities will motivate children to be interested in education. The teacher will love them as much as they their own children; he will protect them as sincerely as they do their own children; they will teach them as much with devotion as they do at home. The teacher will have a loving personality and inspiring image for their children.

The school and the teacher will exert a strong influence upon children at the very initial stage of children. The school will not only be a place of learning and education but also an unflinching ground for children's socialization. It will educate and motivate them to attend all good social traits to become social in manner and behavior and to lead a social life with all social and national responsibilities in future. It will educate them with the feeling of cooperation, competition and success. It will develop in them true human and rational feelings and inspire them to achieve perfection. The teacher will not only transmit knowledge and information from his head into the children's mind but also create in them the ability of analysis and insight.

4. Early Childhood Education and National Goals

The world we live in is one of tough competition. It is a competition of progress, prosperity and development. It is a

competition in the domain of knowledge acquired and stored through research, discovery and invention. Each and every nation of the world attaches supreme importance to the cure and education of children who form the backbone of the nation. This begins at the early stage of childhood. This stage is the moulding stage of children's future life and nation's future development in literature, arts, humanities, science and technology. Childhood is the stage to discard superstitions and evil practices that make the view of life parochial and hinder the development of social life. It is a stage to prepare the mind to receive rational, logical and scientific knowledge. It is a stage to see everything in the light of science and judge every idea on the scale of experience and logical argument.

Society we live in will be more beautiful, more peaceful if we are able to mould children's mind rightly, for today's children are tomorrow's responsible members of the society. If they are properly socialized, the activities which often destroy social peace and in danger life will be controlled. Proper education to child is an effective weapon to fight off all social evils that vitiate our social and national life.

5. Early Childhood Education and School Dropout

Early childhood is the ideal and appropriate period of moulding children mind to continue education. This stage of education for children is the time to motivate children to receive education and to direct their interest to walk through various phases of knowledge. In this stage of life, children are made to have the taste of knowledge, and if they once taste and perceive the joy of education, they will not normally dropout of school.

The government has planned to universalize elementary education. It has made law namely Right to Education Act, 2009 to bring all children up to the age of fourteen to the arena of school. It has made education for children compulsory. No children should be left out of school. Parents, mainly poor and educationally backward, need to be made well aware of the value and importance of RTE, 2009 in their children's life and their attitude to education needs to be modified and re-shaped. The success in this respect if achieved, will motivate children to receive education at schools and the problem of school dropout will largely be solved.

6. Conclusion

Early childhood education is the preparing ground for children's education. The nature, character and standard of national education depends on early childhood education. Supreme importance need to be attributed to it to improve the standard and quality of national education. The improvement of national education is an indicator of national development in all fields. Proper early childhood education will ensure the achievement of universalization of education, control school dropout and pave the way for social peace, social values and national progress.

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