

Child Development The Key to Better Human Life

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1. INTRODUCTION

The child is the father of man. The quote marked years ago by the renowned poet is true and worthwhile. Here, if we add some more weight the meaning becomes the children are the future of our development and civilization. Children are future of any nation. So to we have bright and healthy children is the need for the nation to development. Child Development is the process of growth (Quantitative change in size & structure and intellectual ability). Development does not only mean to grow large, it consists of a progresses series of change of an orderly behaviour towards the maturity. There are various factors in development as given below :-

(a) **Heredity**— It is true that paddy seed will give rise to the paddy plant but beyond this it is also known that with in each species there are variations in color, height, cleverness, ferocity etc. As far as some physical characteristics are concerned, there

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is evidence that some traits are inherited but when we turn to mental characteristics. There are controversy whether intelligence is an inherited characteristic or not.

(b) Growth & Maturation—Growth is the sign of life. The new born infants are born with certain characteristics & capabilities, studies of maternal nutrition during pregnancy suggest that many instance of mild mental retardation are due to maternal malnutrition and inadequate prenatal care. Because of which, WHO, CARE, UNICEF and other Such Organizations have developed programmes to provide good nutrition to expectant mothers. This is the factor that affects the prenatal growth (growth before birth) and post natal growth (growth after birth). These studies are of great importance in the study of child behaviour and its development.

(c) Maturation and Learning—Maturation is an orderly sequence of event determined by growth of the neuromuscular strecefuse. Learning on the other hand is acquisition of skills etc. due to environment stimulation.

2. CHILD DEVELOPMENT : MEANING

Child development refers to the biological & psychological changes that occur in human being between birth and end of adolescence as the individual progress from dependency to increasing autonomy. These developmental changes may be strongly influenced by genetic factor and events during prenatal life, genetic and pre-natal development. These changes generally occur as a result of genetically controlled process known as maturation or as a result of environmental factor and learning but most commonly involves an interaction between the two. Child development is an important part in human life. If the development of a child is good, our country can progress. Therefore, the children should be given special care in their growing age.

3. PARENTAL QUALITIES

The child gets his mental and physical qualities from his parents but development of these qualities is largely affected by environment. Every child needs an environment to grow and this environment is provided by their parents. The parents must promote the development of the skill by stimulating the child to practice. Growth is the increase in size of the body (and its parts) whereas development is the functional maturation, and acquisition of skill etc.¹ Normally, growth and development go hand in hand, i.e., the child matures in all aspects of his being; height, weight and growth of organs, acquisition of neuromuscular control, skills, emotional development, adaptation to stress, ability to assume responsibility and achieve freedom of expression.

Every child comes with the message that god is not yet discouraged of man is how Rabindranath Tagore looks at a child. Children need to develop academic capacities as these are required to live in the modern world. But essential learning that we all need should begin in childhood. Children need to begin to learn about themselves. A child need physical and emotional support, education and positive social experiences in order to develop into a competent and responsible adult. Generally speaking, several problems in the development of children arise from these sources : The lack of family or the presence of an abusing or neglectful family that can not provide a child with a decent home environment, physical, mental or emotional handicaps requiring care and training beyond what a family can usually provide, and psychological difficulties that, over the short or long term, block a child's ability to adapt and learn in his normal milieu (home, school, community).

4. RELATIONSHIP MECHANISM

Children also need to learn about relationships. Relationships are the greatest source of human happiness and misery, yet most children only have the relationships they see in their immediate surrounding (e.g., family, friends etc.) and on the media to learn

from. Emotional development is very important role for the life of a child. Normally the emotional and social development keep pace with the physical and mental growth. Normal children are healthy, happy and well adjusted. This adjustment is achieved by providing the basic emotional need for their mental well being. Each child has the ability to respond emotionally. The first sign of emotional behaviour in the new born infant is general excitement due to intense stimulation.²

Parents want their children to adopt the rules of society. Parental discipline, at its more effective, consists in teaching the child the limits of right and wrong. So that, he will be increasingly able to discipline himself.³ Discipline means training and teaching to help children achieve the goal of self-discipline is essential. A family is the only platform where a child gets the total protection. Thus, family is rightly called the primary school of a child.

5. SOCIALIZATION AND EDUCATION

The socialization of a child begins rapidly when it goes to school. He comes in contact with the persons of various caste and creed. He is much influenced with his teachers than his family members. He obeys them and follows his teachers without any mistake. Then he began to take less attention toward his family members. At this stage the Co-ordination of the both the family & the school is much important because both play a very important role in the development of a child. During the early preschool period, social communication, he is still definitely an individualist, and it is probable significant that a marked degree of socialization of his behaviour occurs due to healthy environment of the family and from schooling the holistic development of a child begins when guardians and teachers both explain him the good and moral qualities of a character such as to wish and to obey his elders, to help his friends, playmates & classmates. Then, the older a child grows, the wider his social contacts become not only in terms of the greater numbers of persons with whom he comes in contact but also in the diversity of situations under

which these contacts take place. Really a personality is the mirror of family, school and their culture. Both are responsible to plant moral and holistic values in a child. So, today in this materialistic world it is the primary duty of both the institution to develop the moral and religious aspect of a child's personality.

A modern society requires that its children develop in special ways. Most important to parents in the area of schooling; early care and education; readiness for school; early learning disability; and the experience of school itself.⁴ However, when we consider learning it is found that development is predominantly due to the environmental factors, though heredity does play a part here also since the success of learning depends on ability. Much learning takes place at home as the child is being socialized other learning takes place in a more formal way when child is educated in the school system.

Socialisation and education give a child adult skills and a place in adult society. Parents can watch a child make his many small entrances into society with a recurring sense of excitement and adventure. The child speaks, dresses himself, finds his way into town, builds up a nice circle of friends.⁵

6. CONCLUSION

The child learns in cycle with a period of rapid improvement followed by a plateau in which there is little improvement or even by a phase in which there is regression to lower level of behavior. How soon the child recloses lost ground or rises from the plateau depends largely upon the strength of motivation.

Children grow socially as they grow physically from year to year developing complexity of skills and social behavior in getting along with people and greater self control. Group relationships are important both for the individual and self control. Group relationships are important both for the individual and society learning to be a social person does not come overnight but is an orderly process in each child. A social child is one who learns the ability to behave in accordance with social expectation. The child will be

socially approved if he gets into the group and other members of the group also accept him. There are various factors which affect the social development of the child like family relation, size of the family, ordinal position, parental attitude, parental expectation and teacher. Every child learns at home and at school.

Learning to behave in a socially approved manner is a long and slow process which extends into adolescence. It is one of the most important tasks of childhood. Before the child enters school he should judge the right from wrong rather he should develop a scale of values and conscience to guide. At birth child has no scale of values. He learns this from the foundation of moral development of the child before he comes in contact with group or society. With the parent child relationship the child will adapt habits which will lead to the discipline and this discipline gives the child a feeling of security by telling him what he may or may not do.

At last, the parents have a responsibility to provide proper motivation. Lack of motivation is solely responsible for many able children not going to school. For motivation a child parents have to provide lots of guidance and counseling.

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