

Early Childhood Care and Education: It's Need, Significance and Challenges

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Abstract

Nowadays, in the current digital arena, there are hardly some peoples who are not in the busy life. The present advanced society leads man to pass life in the tremendous way where the world's people are habitual to live in the said scenario. As a result the care about the child in their early stage of life is going towards the lackadaisical phenomenon. But it cannot be ignored that the care about the child in their early life is very crucial for their future development. Children who lack adequate nutrition, nurturing and care from the parents and others formal agencies of education in this crucial period may lead them towards developmental deficiency. The early stage is the foundations of the entire life where the fountain of an individual is created. Thus the concept of early childhood education is being emphasized by the many educationists and this is why it is needed to have an indispensable care and education for the aforementioned phase of life. Therefore the present paper aims at providing a basic idea of early childhood care and education by citing its need and significance. The paper also aimed at identifying the challenges arises in this stage in a very simple way so that the possible solution may bring out. .

Key words: Early Childhood, Education, Digital arena, advanced society

Introduction

Everything is required a good, strong and robust foundation to be able to have a successful future. It is not exceptional in case of human education also. The human life has been developed over certain numbers of stages which is identified by the different psychologist differently. One of the important stages of the development is the period of early childhood. They significantly propagated that the proper education in early childhood creates the strong foundation of one's whole life education. Therefore all parents, teachers and benevolent should be aware about the early childhood education. It is the basic of all kind of development. If we nurture them in this stage very well then it will be very easy to have the successful future of an individual. Instantaneously, we should know about the requirement and significant of giving education,

taking care and doing best with them to lead their life smooth. This is why, an attempt has been made to provide some awareness about the care and education of the childhood stage's individual for the betterment of their future as well as society. The current paper contributes some significant idea about this into the existing knowledge of Early Childhood Care Education and provides some probable suggestive prognosis for the betterment of the Early Childhood Care Education.

What is early childhood stage?

Early childhood stage is very important period of human development. It ranges from birth to eight years old. It is a time of incredible growth in their social, cognitive, emotional, moral, motor and intellectual, emotional and brain development. Throughout this stage, children are very much influenced by their surroundings including the people they use to congregate and imitate. This stage is crucial for the development of all faculties of the individual. The educations at this stage lead him to have a better future where he/she can at least do the self activities. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) are the indivisible facets of care, health and nutrition, learning in a favourable atmosphere. It is a crucial groundwork for lifelong development and learning.

What is early childhood education?

Early childhood education refers to the education especially to the formal teaching of children in which a child receives education from various agencies, formal or informal during their early childhood age. It is otherwise known as pre-school education, pre-primary education, nursery school education etc. The informal agency of this education includes family or home and formal institutions includes Nursery, Kindergarten, Montessori school, Balwadi and Anganwadi and so on. It provides the basic probability of an individual for their future education.

Objectives of early childhood education

Some important objectives of early childhood education are cited hereunder as follows:

- To enable them to express feelings, thoughts in correct and clear way by encouraging the language development of them.

- To develop good health habit including washing, dressing, cleaning, eating etc.
- To take care about the physical, social, intellectual and motor development of the children.
- To take care of the child in their health and nutrition.
- To make them able to personal adjustment.
- To develop desirable social attitudes and values by encouraging them to have sensitive towards others.
- To inculcate aesthetic aspects of life among the child.
- To foster the latent capacity in them.
- To helps them to be able to express creative or novel ideas freely without any hesitation.
- To develop the skills of communication by giving teach in a proper way.
- For the betterment of the all aspects of human life in effective way so that the children may able to run their upcoming life smoothly.
- To prepare them for the next school environment and next formal education.

Why is early childhood education needed?

Following points focuses on the need and importance of early childhood education:

- **Physical growth and development:** Physical growth is highly occupied in this stage. In this stage the child's physical development is occurring in a very rapid way and if the child gets nurtured in this regard he/she will be structured in such way which gives him/her a bright healthy life in future. Therefore education in this stage should be very vigilant so that the proper development is happened.
- **Cognitive and mental development:** It is widely recognized that the major mental development takes places at the period of eight year old age. In this phase the child likely to be able to think very little about things which let them to develop their cognitive aspects e.g. thinking, recalling, sensation etc. thus in this stage they need proper cultivation of their cognitive aspect and in this regard education plays a vital role to do so.
- **Language development:** Proper language development is not possible unless and until they receive proper guide from the elders. The writing, reading, speaking and listening, all kind of skill is achieved when a child really get helped from the person whom they use to imitate. Early education Enable children communicate effectively and foster both accessible and expressive language. This is why they need to be nurtured in this respect at early stage.

- **Development of good habit:** Since in this stage, the child can't execute the abstract thinking, they use to follow what their parents or teachers do. Hence they should have proper guide and the parents should provide proper education for developing good and polite habit among the child.
- **Social-emotional development:** This comprises the indulgent of an intellect of self, sense of relationships with others and scope of sociability. The emotions like fear angry and love expressions, attachment and personality manifests around the age of three among them irrespective of boy or girl. Social aspects like relationship, communication with other, behaving with other are very much embrace at that stage, this is why proper education is prerequisite to foster these ability to them.
- **Development of morality:** The moral development increases at this period of life during their pre-school times. The eminent psychologists like Piaget, Kohlberg emphasises on the moral development of the child from the very beginning of their life.
- **Enthusiasm for lifelong learning:** Early childhood educations are allegedly more convinced and curious, which let them to perform better in future life. They learn to face problems and build flexibility in complexity.
- **Health benefits:** Early childhood education takes care about their nutrition schedule, hygiene practices, health habits and motor development. Various medical evidence shown that if the health i.e. nutrition is neglected at early period then the developmental process of the child is likely to be hampered in future.
- **Development of personality:** As mental development in this stage takes places largely, they achieve various stimuli quickly to develop their mentality from the environment they interact with. All the social values can be imparted very easily in this stage of life by the parents, teachers and other. This is why the education and care about all the aspects of the development of children should be taken into consideration at this stage of life.

Problems of Early Childhood Care Education

The various challenges that are to be controlled and are hindering the education of this stage may be discussed as the following ways:

- **Multilingualism:** Our country has more than nineteen thousand dialects that are used to speak as mother tongue. Theses variety of languages creates a lot of challenges in the classroom. This is really a big challenge while implementing the early childhood education in our country.

- **Poverty:** Poverty is a great obstacle in the education of the child at all stages of life. The poverty leads the poor people to hesitate and to restrict their child to give education or to send them into the institution of pre primary level of education.
- **Illiteracy:** Illiteracy is the scares of any society. It leads people to create the nonsense among the people to restrict the logical thinking among them. As a result they hardly feel the need of giving education to child at their early stage. The illiterate parents are unable to provide proper education to their child in spite of willing to give them education.
- **Ignorance:** Despite the govt. have been initiated lots of initiatives to bring out the child from the home unto the schools, yet the ignorance doesn't allow the people to send their child either in any education centre even nor in the home. So the children are not getting proper education at this stage which let them to suffer in the future education.
- **Reluctance:** Lack of keenness towards the education for the early childhood stage is one of the important facts that hinder the education of this stage. The parents, teachers and other are sometimes neglect to provide atmosphere of education to the children at this stage.
- **Lack of institution:** In rural areas, it is very much found that the pre primary institution for the education of early childhood is very rare. Even if the institutions are available, these are not equipped well. The lack of good numbers of schools hinders the education at this stage.
- **Dearth of money:** Funding facilities are not being greatly implemented especially in rural areas. The lack of abundant funding is restricting the education at this level.
- **Training support:** The successful and effective education at any level requires the qualified and trained instructor. And this is the big challenges of our country to be fulfilled. These challenges need to be minimized.
- **Population explosion:** Population explosion is the general challenges of India. It is not only in case of pre primary education but also for all kind of education is influenced by the explosion of population in India which is noted as the burning issues of our country.
- **Conservative mentality:** Mentality of the peoples is the big signifier for the all kind development of a country or society or for a nation. Until the mentality of the people is being changed, any targeted situation cannot be improved. The conservative mentality in particular is the big obstacle for the scattered and improvement of early childhood education. They do not allow their child to have formal education due to what they remain uncultured and uneducated.

- **Discrimination:** Discrimination in terms of gender, race, economic, social status and religion also exists in our country from the very beginning. This impediment also is a notable challenge for the early childhood education.

Some suggestions

Hereunder some suggestions are ascertain for the betterment of the position of early childhood education system:

- The Government should give attention on the education of early childhood level by making some special suitable related provision.
- The parents and teachers should be involved in the process of childhood education.
- The awareness should be disseminated among the people who are in lacking of aware about the significance of early childhood education.
- Funding for the pre primary level of education should be increased and expanded.
- The institution should be made available and well equipped in this level of education.
- The classroom should be made such by the teacher where multilingualism can be tackled well.
- The training programme for early childhood educator should be arranged by the government as far as possible.
- The inequality regarding the sex, social identity, economic, class, caste etc. must be reduced and for this government may take necessary steps to address this issue.

Conclusion

The aforementioned points clears that the early childhood education is the key for the all-round development of the child which has a potentiality to have a quality and strong education in future. The lackadaisical attitude of parents at this stage of child may hinder in their development and as a result various disabilities may come into being. This is why parents should be aware about it. Taking care at early stage is undoubtedly beneficial and required as lacking of care in this stage let to suffer entire life. In implementing this essential kind of education lot of challenges are arising to the implementer like Discrimination and inequities in terms of gender, social identity, disability and so on restricts the early childhood education. Therefore this concern needs to be answered robustly for assurance the education at this level universally. All children irrespective of all discrimination should be included in this education. The teachers, parents and other benevolent should be involved in the process of giving education at early childhood level.

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