

Parental and Environmental Factors on The Pre-School Children Between 3-6 Years Old

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Abstract: The goal of this research is to examine how children at kindergarten and between 3-6 years old are effected by their parents and the environment. The child between 0-6 years monitor and imitate what his parents do. The environment is perfect with all its components and everything in this something to be learned and imitated for the child. In addition, personality development that is vital for future of the child is mostly achieved and completed during the same period. Whatever the child monitor and learns during this period will lead to positive outcomes for the child. For this study, field research is implemented.

Key words: Personality • Parent and Environmental Factors • 3-6 Age Group

INTRODUCTION

It is only possible to educate children in accordance with the expectations of democratic society that are expressing their feeling and thought freely and enterprising, researcher, having self-control and respect rights, aware of personal capabilities and being mentally and physically healthy, only when there has been enough importance dedicated on their preschool education [1] Children are the future of both families and the society. Every society expects its new generation to have physically, emotionally and mentally healthy personality and to contribute society positively. Therefore, preschool education is essential for this period” [2].

To give a brief definition of *preschool education*, which is really important, it is preparation of children between 0-72 months according to their developmental and individual differences in a stimuli-rich environment to educate them cognitively, physically, emotionally and socially for the primary school [3].

Family is the first context in which the child has his first social experiences and takes the first steps for his future life. It is also vital for personality development of the child; therefore, the sample experiences the family presents him and the models here are effective for his developing positive social attitudes and values [4].

Senemoğlu [5] emphasizes that during the very early years in a baby's life, the love and intimacy that parents displays the baby is important for his developing basic

trust and confidence and their attitudes and behaviors may shape the baby's efficacy, gender role and briefly the whole personality development. He, then, adds that parents having children at preschool or primary school age should be models and by this means, he can get them learn expected behavior changes. Parents should perform the expected behavior in front of them first and then they should let them watch the feedback they get from them. After delivery, they help the children develop socially adaptable. Children of parents with love and intimacy would be respectful and autonomous and independent individuals. By this means, they have no difficulty in expressing their feelings and thoughts explicitly. Mother is at first the initial source of experiences and those children lacking of experiences would accept their parental values as their guides. Therefore, parents are the first initiators for the children to have a certain type of personality [6].

The child socializing in the family expands his social environment and explores it. Everything observed in this content help himself develop emotionally, mentally and physically and shape his personality.

Personality is one of the most researched subjects today as it was in the past. As a multi-dimensional subject, it has been defined in many different ways so far. When overviewed, it is seen that personality is a completeness of social skills and the image created together with other people; it is a completeness of behaviors and interactions that he has with others

on various topics and in various formats; it is a completeness of behavioral tendency shaped by personal features and relations between the environment improved; and personality includes special and distinguishing features [7,8].

While his personality develops, whatever the parents do effects this development. The parents' attitude towards the child, behaviors and actions and their worldview have a track in his personal world.

The most common parental attitudes and behaviors towards the child are as follows:

Over Protection: It means protecting and caring for him more than normal or acceptable level. The result of this may be having a child who is over dependent on others, lacking of self-esteem and having emotional collapses.

Tolerance: parents having or showing tolerance to their children may lead to permitting them do whatever they wish and want, except for some prohibitions. If the level of tolerance is acceptable and normal, it may help them have self-esteem and be creative and social.

Over Tolerance and Keenness: Over tolerance and keenness let the child be selfish and thus he expects to be on the focus and everyone to serve him. These children with such features performs very weak social adaptation both in and outside home.

Nonacceptance: It can be defined as hindering the satisfaction of regular physical and emotional needs and behaving in a hostile manner. The child experiencing this lacks feeling of cooperation and has emotional collapses and feels nervous of others and has hostile attitudes towards others, especially to his youngsters.

Approval: The approval of parents reflects itself as embracing the child with love and intimacy. Families approving respects the children interests and arrange an environment appropriate for his talents and skills. The child approved is mostly social, cooperative, friendly and emotionally balanced and happy.

Repressive: A child under the repressive control of both or either of his parents may be polite, honest and careful about his behaviors, though he is shy and easily controlled by others and may have vulnerable personality. Children of accusing and constantly intervening parents are observed to cry very easily. Children repressed are also observed easily to have rebellious behaviors and inferiority complex, as well.

Obedience to Children: Parents with this attitude are those accepting children dominancy at home. In such families, children are the dominant character and they show almost no respect to their parents. These children, in time, aren't contented with their parents only, but they also try to take control over people not a member of their family [9].

Family is the largest environment before the child goes to school. During this period when he perceives everything right and certain in his family, he intrinsically begins exploring himself. The features of this period is given below.

3-6 years period is called phallic stage and at this stage, all the energy is focused on genital area and curiosity about sexuality is at high level. The child is curious about his body, sexual differences and what happens around him and he wants to discover and learn all continually [10]. When the questions he asks and discovery on his body and sexual organs are prohibited moralistically, it leads to the feeling of guilt. This feeling he experiences may make the child in his future life be over timid, shy, dependent and doubtful of making mistakes and being punished, or perform over courageous selfish attitudes [11].

- Those the children at 3-6 years undergo in their mental and physical world can be listed as follows.

The child at 2,5-3 years old begins to have a new perception and he separates his identity from the context he is in and from the people around him and starts a discovery of own identity, 'what kind of a person I am'. Therefore, he tries to profoundly question and discover his body, sexual differences and what happens around him [12]. According to Piaget, children can't comprehend complex concepts and their interrelation. His perception of the world is animism which is that inanimate objects are capable of actions and have lifelike qualities and he perceives that everything around is man-made objects [13].

The child at 4 figures out the reason why his all wishes are not satisfied all of a sudden. He realizes and recognizes the rules in the society and rights and privileges of others. The fundamental principle is that he learns a part of his wishes will be satisfied sooner or later [14].

The child at 5 begins to adapt to his environment successfully and thus, he, to a certain extent, is observed as a socialized person almost completely [14].

For the last year of childhood, it is said that the child has achieved much about motor skills and language development and thanks to his ability to balance his

body, he has been able to stand up and walk fast and play soccer and thanks to his eye-hand coordination, he has been able to use his both hand for different purposes at the same time [14].

While the child's personality development is on progress and he undergoes changes socially, he is under the influence of his parents. Therefore he would display aggressive attitudes if his parents are so. On the other hand, the child whose parents are democratic would be more indulgent and adaptable with the others. Personality types of parents and their possible influences on the child are given respectively below.

The Autocratic and Repressive Parents' Attitudes:

Those parents having this attitude don't accept that their children are not any more a part them, but they have totally new personalities. The basic feature of this attitude is the repression on the child. Moreover, the parent have the thought that they have a total control over their children. They have unreasonable rules and children have to obey these rules unconditionally [15]. Autocratic parents share their intimate feelings only when the child performs expected behavior as a reinforcement. Then, they assume themselves as the absolute representative of the social authority and the child has to accept their dominancy unconditionally [16].

This is what is observed in traditional Turkish families. Over repressive attitude means children don't have a separate personality. because of the parents strict discipline, they get the child to obey every rules [17].

In such autocratic and repressive families, it is also observed that parents have quarrels and problems among themselves. Due to the lack of a mutual and healthy communication between father and mother, possible problems may rise and this also leads to breakdowns of communication between them and children, as well [6].

Overprotective Family Attitude: Overprotective attitude is what is experienced the most common in our country. Parents or grandparents who are near the child do many things instead of him so as not to tire him, or get him sad, or get forced. However, these performing such protective attitudes can't guess the extent of damage they cause in his future life [18]. Those child brought up in such families cannot be enterprising and they cannot make their minds and act without an external help. These are in need of somebody's care and protection in their future lives. They are less active and they have underdeveloped muscles; moreover, they are poor at socializing [19].

When the children aren't given the opportunity to get the knowledge of himself, he becomes dependent his family and thus his psycho-social development get blocked [20].

Permissive Parental Attitudes- Child Centered Family:

Child centered family is mostly observed when the he is the only child within an adult dominant environment, or the family has a child at their thirties. At such conditions, the child is the only one having initiatives and whatever his wishes are is accepted unconditionally [20].

Inconsistent (Moody-Indecisive) Parental Attitudes:

Parents have some conflicting thoughts about the child's education, which leads to perform inconsistent attitudes about child discipline [6].

Perfectionist Parental Attitude:

Those children reared with perfectionist attitudes and expectations focus on conditioned love, which means their parents will admire them when they are successful and vice versa. They internalize this types of love and they reflects it to others. Mostly, they get perfectionist accepting no mistakes. Though they have great success at school and career, they still have some troubles with relationships with others. They wish a perfect life, but they feel unsatisfied and collapsed when encountering the reality [21].

Restrictive Parental Attitudes:

There Are Various Reasons as Follows, for What Parents Are Restrictive:

- If mother has a non-marital child, since the society doesn't approve this behavior the mother won't accept and care for her baby.
- If mother has a marriage conditioned and requisite, which means she was pregnant before her marriage and she has to marry him though she doesn't like/love him.
- If mother has baby she doesn't want, which means she wishes to have a son while she has a daughter or vice versa and she doesn't accept and care for her baby.
- If parents have problems with their relations, mother try to rebuild it with the help of a baby and get her spouse home back, but what she expects is not fulfilled and they don't get together again, which leads her not to accept and care for the baby again.

- If mother has a job, she has to start working after delivery, though she doesn't want, which leads her not to accept and care for the baby again.
- If mother has personality problems and not completely matured, she perform childish behaviors and her baby won't attract her as a mother [22]

Disowned child may perform expected behavior for a while to be accepted, yet when he is not able to attract attention, he diverts to another behavior patterns. He returns back his own world breaking the relation with the outer world, he minimizes communication with his family, or he tries to attract attention and to be approved with his offensive and negative behaviors [11].

Democratic Parental Attitudes: These parents have tolerance to and respect their children and thus they don't restrict their children much. Moreover, they let children fulfill their wishes and don't ignore their requirement to be free and self-actualization and support his development. Parents supporting his development and personal improvement provide enough opportunity for the child to feel independent and enterprising and they show intimacy, which give rise to self-confidence and fully socialization [9]. Democratic parents not only provide a shelter for the child, but fulfill love and other moral needs as well [22]. Within a democratic family, there is a control over the child with its clearly defined borders. When parents give the reason underlying behind these borders, their attitude will not be arbitrary, but be approved and accepted by the child [23].

- Parents observed impact on child development is as follows:
- Helping to be consistent individual within the group,
- Preparing the appropriate context to be accepted socially,
- Modeling for the socially accepted behaviors and thus guiding him to improve these behaviors,
- Solving adaptation problems he encounters while socializing,
- Helping him verbally while socialization and helping him acquire socially approved and accepted attitudes,
- Helping him acquire both educational and social needs developing these fields,
- Helping him improve his interest fields and capability [9].

The relation between the child and his parent is so vital that some disorder the child has during his life is observed to have been lived between these two parties [24].

Şahin [5], emphasizes that parents must be aware of child world and fathers should let the child clean the tires while he is washing the his car as this will let him know about the roughness which causes friction. Parents have the opportunity similar to this one in their daily lives which they can use for education.

- According to Ömeroğlu, Yazıcı, Dere, Oktay at all, [25], with the involvement of parents into preschool period:

- Education is let to be more effective,
- Family contributor is supported for education,
- Parents are supported about the child's cognitive-language, emotional and social development,
- Child's environment at home is enriched,
- Family acquires the actual priceless role in his development,
- Parents learn about how to support the child at home.
- Child's whole-person development is contributed,
- Child's education at home is contributed,
- Child reaches the possible top level of his capacity by supporting the parents,
- Education at home is made better,
- Education is made sustainable,
- Parents are indicated how much they are important in his life,
- Problems are prevented beforehand,
- Parents are informed of the features of this developmental period,
- Parents are informed of the possible experiences the child may undergo during this period,

As a result, involvement of parents into this education period of the child makes them have positive attitude towards their children, be more confident about themselves and have the chance to observe and change the society's perception of their child and their child's perception of education [25].

Environmental factors are examined under three topics.

- Prenatal
- On natal
- Post natal

Prenatal: Involves the impacts had in mother's womb, e.g. mother living in a area smoking is allowed, or there is too much noise.

On Natal: Involves the experiences the baby has like asphyxiation, coiling up the navel cord, inexperienced obstetrician.

Post Natal: Involves factor about feeding, illnesses and accidents had, family conditions, educational opportunities, friendships.

A person migrated to a city irregularly urbanized cannot sustain his tradition and norms since he cannot associate his previous compound and the current one. He is desperate and mostly undergoes depression at varied levels. It is possible to accept psycho-social and economic depressions are results of these feelings.

CONCLUSION

Environment around the child is a new world for effecting him more every minute more. He begins having friendships, joining play groups and implementing what he has learned from his parents at home. He learns to be approved by the group and be a member of it. If he is reared well, he begins thinking for both himself and the group and thus becomes the leader of it.

As much important as his parents' perception of the world, the social environment he was reared in plays a vital role. Within a friend group selected well, the basic features of the child's future life is shaped. This social context has nearly the same vital role as the family. His friends should be observed by the parents since friends not selected well and correctly may pave the way for the child make unrecoverable mistakes. Therefore, parents should perform their tasks that are assessed after field and literature search:

- Child must be aware of that his is observed and parents must be models for him on desired and positive behaviors.
- There shouldn't be continuous pressure on the child and the language should not be compulsive.
- His thought should be regarded.
- Parents should sometimes play with him and allocate some time for him.
- He should not be expected to be perfect.
- Before making a decision, they should ask their children about their ideas or opinions.

- Parents should take precautions to improve their children socially.
- He should be permitted to identify his personality and himself.
- The communication between parents and child should be effective and continuously active.
- His friends should be observed and he should be guided to have positive and constructive friendships.

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