

MISSING “APU” IN PRESENT GLOBAL CHILDHOOD AND ITS IMPACT

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ABSTRACT

This short communication tried to compare today’s childhood with “Apu,” childhood during colonial rule of India. Familial and societal changes are the prime cause of changing childhood and it may be considered as an effect of globalization. Parenting and single child politics are the cause violent and deviant childhood. Hence, up-bringing process of child should not depend on materials.

Keywords: Childhood, Family relations, Parenting.

INTRODUCTION

According to the “standpoint theory,” child is a social product and there is no specific goal of social learning and it depends on the adults. Child grows through two worlds: (a) Micro world means within family and family relation. Parents, siblings, and other members are key influential factors of the upbringing of a child; then (b) macro world means the relational impact of social network (neighbor, community, school, and society) in child’s socialization [1]. Further, parents and their relation are vital for shaping childhood appropriately because mother acts as expressive leader to shape the inner self of a child and father plays the role of instrumental leader through financial support and introduction of the child with the social world [2]. Thus, the parental, familial, and societal roles are prime factors of his/her development appropriately. However, the structure and process of childhood is associated with socio-economy of his/her family. It is evident that children have to face different problems in their everyday life [3].

“Apu” (a symbolic child character) in “Patherpanchali” has been sketched the scenario of rural childhood of India where Apu represents the condition of childhood in Indian villages during the colonial period. Family was then a strong micro world of a child. Children bonding with parents, siblings and other members taught them values, morality and responsibilities of childhood. In spite of poverty and other right based lacks in children lives, the childhood was healthy in terms of psychosocial and cultural development.

Comparing to Apu, childhood in global India has been obviously signified with drastically changes in all terms. Urbanization and technological progress have reached even to a tiny village. It makes a material based complex society and childhood is materialistic one. There are also certain changes in family structure and processes directly affected functions of family and children lives because of poor parental relational representation, parental conflict, and truncated family relation. Children’s psychosocial development and its effects shape their personality differently [4]. The childhood simplicity and curiosity suffer from originality because of media bound cultural syndrome and greed as well as parental wants and pressure. They learn to imitate adult-like behavior and to involve in material based competition with their peers and friends. The childhood curiosity promotes the child habits and behavior with moral development. Idle childhood is not so much affected the socialization process of children. Bad impact of consumerism influences them to involve in indulgences and deviant activities. In present context, childhood suffers from needs and demands of global capitalist economy. Thus, it becomes a complex and challenging aspect in global India. Is too much orientation to material civilization causing childhood crisis at present?

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