

# TODAY'S EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Somdyuti Rakshit  
M.Sc.-M.Ed. (JRF)  
Vinaya Bhavana, Visva – Bharati

**Abstract:** According to Nelson Mendella “Education is the most powerful weapon for change the world.” So for changing the world we have to focus on education for all (EFA). We all know there are no proper starting point of education, education starts from the time of our birth (western concept). But there is a proper time for our formal education; it starts in the age of 5 years. Early childhood education means education of the child till the age of 6-8 years. Today all over there is a competitive mind, all of us starting our children's school from 2-3 years of age. It affects their development of cognitive, affective and psychomotor domain. This paper discuss what is early childhood education, characteristics of early childhood, today's problem on early childhood education, effects of today's early childhood education and finally how we overcome from those affects of early childhood education for our children's better future.

**Key Words:** Early Childhood, Education.

## INTRODUCTION:

Early childhood education consists of activities and experiences that are intended to effect developmental changes in children prior to their entry into elementary school.

According to Pikunus-

- “Actually early childhood education means education of early aged (3-6 years) children.”

It emphasized children **characteristics** like:

- **Spontaneous:** According to spontaneous Idealists children are creative, lively and open-minded. They are humorous and dispose of a contagious zest for life. Their enthusiasm and sparkling energy inspires others and sweeps them along. They enjoy being together with other people and often have an uncanny intuition for their motivations and potential.
- **Creativity:** They are remarkable for their ability to adapt to almost any situation and to make do with whatever is at hand to reach their goals.
- **Imaginary power:** In this age children are very much imaginative in nature. They like to hear fairy stories, king-queen stories and many other stories.
- **Inconstancy:** They are restlessness in nature, they are not staying more time in a particular place, they run here and there, they always like to run and play.

Now we came to some profile of Indian Children.

- The child population (0–6 years) is 158 million.
- One-third of babies are born with low birth weight.
- Only 42 per cent children (12–23 months) are fully vaccinated.
- 14 per cent are not vaccinated at all.
- India has the largest number of malnourished children in the world.
- 47 per cent of all children below 2 years are malnourished.
- 5 per cent of all children 0–6 years suffer from severe or moderate anaemia.
- 25 million children are born every year.
- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is 70 per 1,000 live births.
- 60 million children (< 5 years) live in poverty.
- Of them, only 19.4 million children (3–5 years) are getting preschool education under ICDS.

Medical Science says 70% of brain development completed of a child in first five years. Then brain development became slow time to time. So first few years, up to eight years is very much important for children. In this time children's creative power developed. Their brain developed. So they need freedom with care but parents send them in the school from the age of 2-3 years. This time not time for children to go school. **Article 21(A) RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT** of our Constitution also says that state should provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of 6-14 years. In the **Article 51(A) eleven FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES** present for all the citizen of India. The last duty to parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child between the age of six and fourteen years.

Everywhere we see our duty to our children to give education but after certain age, the age of six. But now everywhere we have hurry. So we send our children to school in the age between 2-3 years. So they faced many problems in their very early age.

### **TODAYS PROBLEM ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:**

Today there are so many problem we faced on early childhood education, some of those problems discuss below-

- **So many expectations of parents:** Today there is nuclear family; there are only one or two children of parent's. So parent's expectations so much from their little children. Sometimes parent's try to enforce on their little children to fulfil their unfulfilled dreams. So they admit their children in the school at a very early age.
- **They are forced to engage in reading books:** Little children are not interested to read books, they are interested to play, run, and enjoy life, but their parent's forced them to read books. So they are getting bookish and abstract knowledge from very early age, finally they lost themselves in overburden.
- **Children are overloaded with huge bags:** Maximum time we see there are so many subject have to study them. In school every day there are 6-7 classes, so they have to carry so many books and exercise books to the school. They have to carry overloaded bags every day.
- **Unhealthy competition:** Children become the part of unhealthy competition to fulfil their parent's expectations. Parent's think if their children are not studies properly then their friend's children becomes comes to the first in the class. So their prestige becomes hampered.

### **AFFECTS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:**

Now we try to discuss the affects of early childhood education. Among the so many affects of early childhood education some of those affects are discussing below-

- **Child's natural growth is affected:** Because of the overloaded bags in the back of the children, their natural growth is getting hampered. They feel pain in back, their backbone become bend after some years, their physical development become hampered.
- **It affects mental and cognitive development:** Children getting engaged in reading books and doing home tasks, so they are not getting time for their mental cognition. Day to day they become mechanical. Their cognitive development becomes hampered.
- **It can stop their divergent thinking ability:** Students are always busy in reading books, they are not getting so much time for imagine something. So their divergent thinking ability also affected.
- **It also affects child's creativity:** Because of getting bookish knowledge children become mechanical, they not have enough time for imagine something, they always force to focusing on their study. Sometime today children are not permit to play with their friends in play ground. So their creative power become tends to extinction.

**A WAY FORWARD FROM AFFECTS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:**

Always where a problem there is a solution also, we have to find out that solution. In this case we have discuss some of solution which can gives our children a better childhood and helps them to all round development in future.

- **Give them freedom:** We all know freedom is most necessary thing for children development. The father of naturalism Rousseau and other naturalist like Rabindranath Tagore says let the child free in the nature. Freedom is the main slogan of naturalist discipline.
- **Use of play way method:** Playing is the most lovable things for all the children. They want to play. So if let them play they will be happy. This will be helping their physical and cognitive development.
- **Learning by concrete example:** According to Piaget's cognitive developmental theory children's are able to thinking abstract thing only in formal operational stage (after the age of 12 years). So in early childhood gives them only concrete examples for their better understanding.
- **Joyful learning:** If learning becomes joyful then everyone wants to learn. But it is sorry to say that our education system has too many things to be changed. Our education system depends on rote learning method. We have to focus on joyful learning. If learning becomes joyful then children's all round development will be occur. Then we have not forced children's for learn, they learn autonomic ally.
- **Learning without burden:** Yaspal committee report published on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 1993 with the titled 'Learning without Burden'. Main focuses on children how learn? This report suggests that learning must be burden free. NCF (National Curriculum Framework, 2005) also suggest the same thing. Now we have to apply it for our better future.

**CONCLUSION:**

Early childhood education consists of activities and experiences that are intended to effect developmental changes in children prior to their entry into elementary school. In early childhood some characteristics are present like spontaneous, creativity, imaginary power, curiosity etc. But today's children are faced many problems in their childhood, because of so much expectation of parents. They are forced to engage in reading books, children are overloaded with huge bags, unhealthy competition, etc. So these problems affects in child's natural growth. It affects mental and cognitive development, it can stop their divergent thinking ability, it also affects child's creativity etc. So we have to overcome from this problem by give freedom to children, help them in joyful learning, learning without burden, use of play-way method and most importantly we have to realise that our children need more their parents then the school. Finally and most importantly all the **parents have to understand that their little children need them more then the school.**

**REFERENCES:**

- [1] Baron, R. A., & Misra, G. (2016). *PSYCHOLOGY*. Delhi, Chennai: PEARSON.
- [2] Gupte, A. (Director). (2011). *Stanley ka Dabba* [Motion Picture].
- [3] Khan, A. (Director). (2007). *Taare Zameen Par* [Motion Picture].
- [4] MANGAL, S. (2016). *ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY*. NEW DELHI: PHI.
- [5] Mukherjee, N. R. (Director). (2018). *Haami* [Motion Picture].

[6] Mukherjee, N. R. (Director). (2014). *Ramdhanu* [Motion Picture].

[7] NATIONAL CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK FOR TEACHER EDUCATION. (2009).New Delhi: NCTE.

[8] *National Curriculum Framework*. (2005). NEW DELHI: NCERT.

[9] National Focus Group.(2006), *Early Childhood Education*. New Delhi: NCERT

[10] New Policy on Education 2016.(2016).New Delhi: MHRD.

[11] Panda, N. M. (Director). (2011). *I Am Kalam* [Motion Picture].

[12] Roy, S. (2014-15). *Siksha Monovidya*. Kolkata: Soma Book Agency.

[13] The Constitution of India.

