# ROLE OF SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT IN COGNITIVE AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

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### ABSTRACT:

This study examined the effects of society and culture on children personalities and upbringing.  
Children of age group (3-7) were surveyed via different questionnaires and activities. We predicted that family environment, schooling and friends they all have significant impacts on child’s personality. Also, a child’s cognitive development is strongly influenced by their surrounding culture. Children from a relaxed and friendly background were confident and creative as compared while those from dominant background were not creative and confident enough.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

In this journal we will be following mixed (qualitative and quantitative) approach, as for this topic various characteristics and aspects, reasoning and study of cultures and cultural practices local as well as in other societies are researched .Quantitative data is collected by conducting surveys and activities for children of different age groups belonging to diverse background.  
 Questions to be researched and studied upon are as follows:

RQ1: How does Society is affecting a child psychology?  
RO1: To gain an insight of our role in making a child extrovert or introvert, confident or shy, aggressive or friendly

RQ2: Why good schooling is necessary for children in early age?

R02: it will demonstrate school’s role in making children character, behaviors and emphasizing etiquettes in them

RQ3: What is the role of Language on children upbringing?

R03: To have an insight of language effects on children because it is a common observation that children knowing multiple languages other than their mother tends to be more confident and extrovert than those knowing just one

RQ4: How does cultural norms and trends bring a difference?

RO3: Culture plays a key role when it comes to judge or tell about people belonging to specific region. So, learning about major aspects of culture is itself important.  
  
OBJECTIVE:  
 Primary purpose of this research is to analyze major problems which children encounter in early age that leaves a very big impact on them for entire life. To research in different domains understanding the psychology of model via different literature reviews and research papers and then molding research finding in a form to collect quantitative data from respondent. This study will help parents, teachers to better understand their kids.  
  
RATIONALE:  
In Asia and specially developing countries like ours, we don’t give much importance to learning parenting, psychology, and personality. Keeping them aside our primary goals are food, shelter and clothing. It seems right but if we see from a broader perspective, we’ll come to know these unimportant factors are somehow directly linked with our those demands. For a good economy we need a sound mind and sound body, to compete with world we need a confident generation which is capable enough of standing in front of any generation and that all is possible just by considering these worthless facts actually worthy.

### INTRODUCTION:

We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today. (Taucher.S, 1998) Personality does not develop in a day, it takes years of observations, practices, enforcements to make a person what he or she is. Researchers says major formation years of personality is 2-6 because in these years’ child observes what’s going around. A lot of children grew up being aggressive just because they haven’t got proper parenting, schooling. Criticism or harsh treatment makes children introvert, stopping their thinking and creativity abilities. what may be deemed as right in a society may be questioned upon, seem alienated and even may be declared completely wrong in some communities. A human born is a clean slate whatever is written on the canvas of his mind will shape him with little change throughout the individual’s life.

LITERATURE REVIEW: Personality of the child develops in first five years of his age. It is biggest responsibility and hardest task for parents to make their child a good human being.

As said by “qaXXKurt Cobain” in his journal;  
 I use bits and pieces of other personalities to form my own

.AS “Bruce Lee” says  
 Always be yourself, express yourself, have faith in yourself, do   
 not go out and look for successful personality and duplicate it

“Albert Einstein” explains personality development as  
 The personality that finally emerges is largely formed by the environment in which a man happens to find himself during his development by the structure of the society in which he grows up, by the traditions of that society, and by its appraisal of particular types of behaviours.

All of these explaining and reinforcing this fact that how much it is important to consider what impacts are occurring on our children by different environmental factors, social scenarios, linguistics and also how changing behavior of people living with child bring a big variance in child behavior .  
We need to keep an eye on our children development because it still needs a lot of effort putting to make society realize it is to say people wrong when they are doing some thing wrong what is actually difficult is to do upbringing of your children in such a way that they becomes a responsible and socially active person.

RESEARCH METHODOLGY:  
Since our research is about personality development which needs both theoretical research to analyse and understand as well as statistical surveys to know about public and how much it correlates to that theoretical conclusion ,so we are using mixed method (Qualitative + Quantitative) of research , and particular method of research is ethnographic and exploratory.

SOCIETY’S IMPACT ON CHILDREN PSYCHOLOGY:For child social and cognitive development it is important to know about culture and what experience child can get from it.  
 **WAYS OF CHILDREN COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:**  
In Japan kids are not forced to go to school until that age of 7. Some kids happily trotting to their way to school and some develop it as a mode of punishment in their subconscious. They consider it as a tough thing and torture too in their extreme cases. This phase is easier for kids who have elder school going siblings. some even may desire to go there earlier in curiosity, happy and relaxed children are better learners and likely won’t throw tantrums not to go to school. A kid who subconsciously views school as a place away taking away his safe place like in home where he feels connected will affect him later in his life, if he is sleep deprived or has to sacrifice his sleep he will feel bad going to school whereas some of them if it’s little and not in a routine he might be fine after some time and may get busied with school stuff he might experience sibling rivalry as because of not doing good in school and if rebuked by his parents and if comparisons are made ., he might secretly view his parents as villains as they were the agents of this change ,he might feel not loved by his parents. Proper counselling and sound attention should be administered to this child most importantly by parents.

## **FAMILY:** Homes which have democratic atmosphere will give children a good thought-provoking environment and it will build up their abilities to become future writers. It also boosts their curiosity which leads them towards technological world in future, lastly democratic environment polishes leadership skills as well. Family serves as a primary learning place for each kid ,daily observance of surrounding people induces all of that in their little reason. That is why families which consider fighting a normal thing, or don’t give respect to female , their kids automatically have that nature inherited in them which is not actually their cause . Contrary to this, peace loving, families which celebrate little events.

Table 1: Children Opinion about way of Parent’s Love

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | |
| Questions Reported | **Dad Percentile** | **Mom Percentile** |
| Buys what I like | 25.80% | 25.80% |
| Praises me | 16.90% | 16.90% |
| Extra Pocket Money | 12.20% | 12.20% |
| Kisses me | 11.00% | 11.00% |
| Holds me | 8.90% | 8.90% |
| Outing or Playing Together | 8.50% | 8.50% |
| Surprise presents | 5.90% | 5.90% |
| Unexpressive | 4.50% | 4.50% |
| Not much Interaction | 2.20% | 2.20% |

Figure 1 Figure 2

Table 2 : Parents Discipline Methods

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The Form of Discipline | Father Percentage Use | Mother Percentage Use |
| Talk to him/her | 39.60% | 37.80% |
| Spanking | 26.90 | 27 |
| Humiliate | 14 | 15.5 |
| No allowance | 2.9 | 3.1 |
| Don't talk to the child | 2.1 | 2.4 |
| No TV | 2.9 | 2.4 |
| No playing with friends | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Curse child | 1.9 | 2.7 |
| Other forms | **2.9** | **2** |
| No food | **0.2** | **0.2** |

Table 3: Spending Time with family

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Levels | | | | | |
| Tasks | Everyday | Often | Don’t know | Seldom | Never |
| Studying | 32.10% | 22.60% | 18.80% | 11.60% | 14.90% |
| In Parks | 9.60% | 16.70% | 20% | 21.70% | 32.00% |
| Morning Walk | 11.20% | 21.90% | 29.10% | 22.80% | 15.00% |

SCHOOL –LIFE:

Schooling plays an important role in the development of personality. Early age schooling plays a very vital role in children creativity building, thought provoking, skills development. Children face different kind of challenges such as learning difficulties, but it creates a positive learning attitude in them, building up competent behavior also it increases their exposure and enhances cognitive skills. Children who face poor adjustment in schools result in depression and socially introvert in comparison to other fellows and increases their level of anger and makes them aggressive. They often feel frustrated and incompetent in academics and it develop a negative pattern of adaptation towards schooling. They have low self-confidence and self-esteem and have no meaning in life.  
  
Figure 3 Figure 4

ROLE OF LANGUAGE IN CHILDREN'S INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING:

Language helps us in thinking and learning from world around us.  It let us ask questions and develop simple thoughts into complex and creative ideas.  
Child learns language by his surrounding, linguistic development starts from hearing first which slowly and gradually makes them learn what they heard and then ultimately using them. Language is only bridge which helps us to communicate with each otherLanguage is a very important communication tool that can affect a child’s intellectual development. Along with language there is dire need of social interactions in the development of cognition and intellect and therefore, language becomes an important parameter for communication  
Children tend to use language in three different stages - as an essential factor for communication and social speech; then as egocentric or in their own perception such as talking to one’s own self which helps them to control their own thinking; and lastly in communication development where verbal acts are need in learning and guidance of thinking and action. Language is known to help children to think about mental abilities, behaviour’s and is the building block for all higher cognitive processes including steer attention, conscious memorization, recall categorization, problem solving strategies, concrete reasoning and self-reflection.

CULTURAL NORMS AND TRENDS AFFECTING CHILDREN PERSONALITY:For humans the variations in culture are not biologically programmed; they must be learned. According to researchers the process of adopting culture is same as learning language Transmission of information from one generation to another constitutes a cultural-language tradition. Culture represents an excellent amalgamation of creativity, intellectualism and human intelligence along with some old traditions.According to Vygotsky’s view, society shapes a child’s mind through the transmission of tools which are appropriate for their culture. Both the culture and the child’s experiences are necessary to understand children’s cognitive development.  
Early exposure to the culture also determines how an individual views and describes himself , this basically relates to the self-esteem ,self-reflection , self-image of that person , mostly in Asian societies where family background and family tree is most significant way of introducing and describing ones self-i.e. a child will introduce himself by saying “I am son/daughter of …” followed by his passion, achievements etc. if any , mostly they will share about themselves and their experiences according to the people they met and how in any way they are related to them and will explain somehow according to that, contrary to the American and European way where a child may introduce by saying “I enjoy painting…”, “I am good at…” etc phrases , these children are more open to exploring themselves as well as the environment ,they are more opinionated and experimental and focus on what makes them actually who they are and also they would explain their life experiences in a more detailed way as compared to the former.   
**PEER GROUP:**Peer pressure again has great effect on the personality of a child, while some may view it as a healthy competition , some may deem upon it as a way to improve their version of themselves as to be better , some may adopt bad habits as well to appear or behave in a certain way, the ideal standards of the particular society would actually determine and a quest to fit in those standards might be there except for the cases of a few of as so-called **“**rebels” ,a child may start drugs, smoking ,abusing ,drinking , being physically violent , picking on others just to appear “ cooler” according to the standards set by his peers ,this also has an affect that what actually is the purpose of being academically sound , well mannered ,is that just to be ahead of others academically by hook or crook or is it related to being a better skillful, learned individual who takes it as a learning experience , so it’s what a society defines as “a good boy” , “a good girl” as according to the Kohlberg theory of personality development , notion of “a cool boy/girl” by peers ultimately affects the personality development .

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:   
 It is seen and researched that beginning from infancy in every culture mood of communication with infants is different. In Germany mothers focusses more on baby’s desires, needs rather than them. While African mothers on the other hand gives importance to social interaction of child which includes child’s interactions with people in his/her surrounding.  In West such as European and North American countries, children have a unique way of introducing themselves via some unique traits like “I am smart” or “I am good at drawing”. While in Asian, African, Southern European and South American countries, children describe themselves via their relationships wrt others and social roles such as “I am my parents’ child” or “I am a good student”.  
INSTRUMENTS:  
In this study, “Activity Tasks” and “Choose Best One Out Forms” are used to collect data from children. Activity tasks are to measure children personality characteristics, levels of childhood social and general IQ for identifying what are their needs and in which particular atmosphere they feel comfortable.  
 According to a study conducted on ASHA we have found it matters a lot that how’s parents relationship going as it impacts directly to child psychology.

In activity tasks we have written simple tasks from which we could have ides of child as an introvert, extrovert or ambivert. Then percentage of his participation in sports, or how much he watches tv, or video games etc. This also tells what child prefers either spending time with nature and people or spending time alone doing whatever he like to do without being dependent on any one. Then his birth order it also tells child role, as mostly elder or first-born child in home has good leader ship skills, somewhat dominant behavior but responsible too. While middle order children have calm attitude towards things they deal smartly, sometimes seems careless but not that good decision-making skills. Lastly youngest children at home is quite irresponsible, attention seeker and frank. Colors chosen by children also tells what’s going on in their mind whether do they like vibrant eye catchy colors, or decent elegant colors, or cool relaxing colors.

CHOOSE BEST ONE OUT FORM

In this form we have brought forward different characters with whom child live daily and spends time and then we have asked them to tell whom they consider best. like who gives more money mama or papa? With whom do they share secrets siblings, friends or parents. Name of person whom they are afraid of.

DATA COLLECTIONS:

For collecting data major resources are surveys at different schools. Social media Campaigning googles forms. Direct Interviews from randomly different kids while going somewhere. Most people criticized it as well, There opinion was that we cannot judge or conclude a child personality at this young age and it needs a lot of time to actually determine result .

FINDINGS:This study is conducted to find current conditions about children. How they are getting effected by surrounding culture, social environment, schooling, language and needs that required to be meet for a good child perception development.  
Primarily following questions were considered in research:  
1. What conditions are faced by student in school that affects his schooling, environmental, and psychological well being?  
2. How factors outside school environment affects kids in positive and negative manners? 3.How language plays an important role in a child’s life?  
For answering all of them our study is divided into three parts. First is quantitative data focusing on children, peers and tutor’s responses. Second is academic environment covering students, parents, and teachers reports. Thirdly family upbringing in which we focused on kids, parents, and siblings’ views.

SURVEY ON SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS:

From Surveys conducted for students about school environment we concluded that most of them like school. Major problems faced by them are:

1. Problem with friends
2. Adjustments in school
3. Unexpressive or showing Fear
4. Afraid of teachers

Figure 5

SURVEY ON HOME ENVIRONMENT:Second survey that we conducted is about family and parental interests. Following factors are investigated in survey. Basically, it was a comparison of mother and father whom did child consider better in different aspects.

1.homework help by parents  
 2. Materialistic means of showing affection  
 3.love by extra money  
 4.talking to children by laughing and spanking together

Figure 6

SURVEY ON LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:In research about child’s linguistic development starting from time when they start observing till they start speaking little words we reported a survey of [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](http://www.asha.org/) (ASHA) in this we found that major aspect which is very rapidly and dangerously affecting child’s linguistic learning abilities is excessive use of technology by current generation. It directly impacts on youngster’s ability to communicate.

A new survey of U.S. parents commissioned by the find’s significant percentages reporting technology use by very young children and more than half of the parents surveyed have concerns about the potential negative impact of technology use on the ability of the young to communicate. Survey is conducted for children of ages 0-8.

Following are statistical percentages of technology use by children.  
Figure 7  
  
CONCLUSION:The most rapid period of brain development takes place before age 3, Dr. Page notes.   
Best and quickest way to make children learn is by verbal communication instead of technology use.For better personality and skills development of children parents need to spend more time with their kids not only while they are studying but also duringcocurricular activities , doinghome tasks such as cleaning, laundry ,cooking together builds up child’s interest in everything and enables them learn quickly before age. After parents, siblings are the ones with them child not only spends time also they share things together, play together, secrets holders of each other. Parents should have to give equal attention to every child because otherwise it creates an atmosphere of complexity and inferiority in child which results in poor performance and learning pace in child. School teachers also plays a very important role in children base building if they just give attention to high flyers neglecting rest of the class, they are actually making those children unable to find their abilities we need to realize this fact that not all children are born intelligent or confident some of them needs others help to polish their skills because every one has a unique talent ,they just need to find that hidden talent in themselves.  
RECOMMENDATION: In this paper we have worked on different prospects of kids, analyzed their mentality and capabilities ,behaviors and many other points . Further work can be done on this topic in same domain or interlinked domains possibly in some implementation ways explaining an easy remedies for problems we have encountered or doing same research on young generation , or on parents ,teachers and social environment to know their opinion about kids ,what is their psychology and how could it be possibly improved

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The author has not declared any conflicts of interest.

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