

HOME ENVIRONMENT FOR BETTER LEARNING

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Abstract: Home is the basic agency in the form of elementary education, and is helpful in the achievement of the aims of education. In the form of an informal agency of education, home is the major associate of the school. Today, the aims of education such as the physical development, mental development, the development of character, social and cultural development make the child active in productive work by giving him the training of certain vocation. For the achievement of the aims of education, the environment of the home should be educational oriented and contribute towards the educational process of the child.

Key words: Home, Education, Development.

INTRODUCTION

The home is an important informal but active agency of education. Home performs an active role development besides schools in the educational process of the child. Today the aims of education are the physical development, mental development, the development of character, social and cultural development and also to make the child active in productive work by giving him the training of certain vocation. The downfall of morality and character that we are witnessing today after the achievement of independence, it has become imperative to check it in the interest of the whole nation. It is on account of this that necessity is being felt for the moral, spiritual and religious. Family is still the basic agency which after being free in the form of elementary education, is helpful in the achievement of the above said aims of education. In the form of an informal agency of education, home is the major associate of the school. For the achievement of aims of education, home is making useful contribution in the educational process of the school.

Educational functions of the home:

1. Physical Development:

Home is the sole educational agency in which the child is properly cared and brought up. Proper attention is paid towards his food. Provisions are made for his nutritious food. By making arrangements of medicines, he is saved from being infected with any disease and is also given training to lead a well regulated life. He is given the knowledge of cleanliness and sanitation, to eat in time, to sleep in time, to wake up in time etc. It is mainly the family which creates appropriate habits regarding to physical development.

2. Mental Development:

According to Pestalozzi, "The child is born with certain inborn tendencies or powers. Keeping these powers in mind opportunities should be given to the child to develop naturally. "The mental development of the child takes place with the help of many experience in the family. It is on the basis of these experiences, that the instinct of curiosity is born and developed in the child. The child raises certain questions and by getting the right answers of the same, his instinct of curiosity is satisfied. Curiosity is very important for mental development. The child gets a free environment for its expressions in the family. As there is the development of the language, so would be the mental development of the child. There is a lot of importance of riddles and stories in the mental and intellectual development of the child. It not only leads to the development of the thinking power but also of his powers of imagination.

3. Moral Development:

Home plays important role in the moral development of the child. When the children look at the behavior of elders in the family, they try to imitate in the same way and if some deficiency of any kind is found, children change and make adjustment in their behavior by observing the behavior of their parents. The members of those families who have liberal attitudes, the child tries to adopt the qualities of obedience, honesty, mercy and benevolence in such families. "Values are not taught, they are caught". In this way, family gives full co-operation in the moral development of children.

4. Character Development:

There is lot of contribution of the parents in the development of the character of the child. Besides mother, the other members of the family also contribute in the character formation of the child. Those families in which there is brotherhood among the different members of the family, co-operation, sympathy and faith, the children have an impact of all these qualities in the family and they get the power of character development

5. Social Development:

Home is the smallest social group for the individual and child. By living in the society, children observe mutual brotherhood among them. This has an impact on them. The spirit of co-operation and sympathy is developed in the child. The children observe their parents co-operating with each other and being affected by it, co-operate with other members of the family, especially with other children. The foundation of socialisation among them is laid by living in the society. The smaller level of socialisation prepares the child for the socialisation at the school level. The socialisation of the child is very important for the social interests. With the development of socialisation, the child links himself with the mainstream of the nation and takes an active part in the functions related to national interests.

6. Cultural Development:

The child receives those sacraments of the family in which he is born. He inculcates in him the language, customs and traditions, ways of eating and dressing, style of living, mixing with others, courtesy and behavior patterns of the family. In whatever family a child lives, his habits, 'likes and dislikes' and interests would also be of the same type. Whatever imprint of recognitions, cultural values, customs, traditions and rituals are there on the child during his earlier period, become indelible in the later stages of his life. Therefore, instead of giving education to the child of some specific culture, he should be made an individual with liberal attitudes. Our India is a country of diverse languages, cultures and religious. There is 'Unity in Diversity' here. Therefore, the family should play an active role to develop the spirit of liberalism in the child.

7. Vocational Development:

There was a time when vocational education was provided in the family only. But there is so much development in the field of knowledge and science today that the knowledge of all cannot be provided in the four walls of the family. Even, today there are many areas, the education of which is possible only in the family like agriculture, iron smithy, weaving, pottery and making of toys etc. The children still live in the family and learn all these vocations from their parents. It means to say that the training of many vocations and small industries is done by the families.

8. Spiritual Development:

All the people in this country have reverence and faith in one religion or the other. The children see their elders performing certain religious activities and they too are themselves attracted towards these activities. They become aware of the values and recognitions of religion. There is only one message of all the religions in India. The imprint relating to religion that takes place into the hearts and mind of the children, later on becomes indelible. There are many religions in India and it is not possible to give the education of all religions. Therefore, it would be appropriate to provide to the children the substance of all the religions in the family. It makes their attitude liberal towards their life, society nation, religion, caste and culture. They should take the co-operation of families for this noble function.

9. Emotional Development:

Emotions occupy an important place in a child's life. A child is motivated by emotions and he does many things under the influence of the family members. It is the function of the family to prevent different emotions effectively. In a good family a child develops emotions of love, courage, happiness, self-confidence etc.

10. Practical Education:

A child gets practical education for life in the family. He learns in the family how to conduct himself ,how to speak, how to respect the elders etc .These things make a child cultured and civilized and he learns to adjust in his future life.

If seen as conclusion, we cannot deny the fact that even today the foundation stone of education is home. The home plays its role directly or indirectly in the education of the child. Therefore, there can be no two opinions regarding the importance of home in the field of education of the child. But for this, the environment of the home should be educational oriented. Only those homes can be powerful and effective whose members are literate, conscious, well behaved and home liberal attitudes. The second point to be taken into account is that the impact of the mother on the child is the maximum. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that the mother should be educated. If the mother is to be educated, there must be expansion in women education. The foundation of the education of the child can be laid by the members of his family. The members of the family should be economically prosperous and should be endowed with the qualities of love, tolerance, patience, equality, co-operation and renunciation etc.

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