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Role of a mother in developing positive attitude towards environment in their wards

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Abstract

In today's life where everyone is running to earn their livelihood, fathers have to dedicate most of the quality time to their profession which they should spend with their children. So in that case mothers are the only one who takes care of each and everything related to their child whether it is feeding them, about their studies, about inculcating values for life or something else. Therefore whether a mother works or not after having children but they should be educated. Education makes a person aware of what is happening in the surrounding and develops a sense of self confidence to understand things and to react and work in a proper way in order to accomplish any task. A woman is the strength of the family. A family is like a building and the woman is like the foundation stone. She needs to also learn over a period of time. But if educated, undoubtedly, she will be able to serve better to their family and will be able to understand her children in a far better way which is very important for their holistic development.

"Educate a woman, you educate a Nation". In this paper the author will try to discuss about the attitude towards environment and why mothers should be educated in order to develop proper attitudes and beliefs in their children. The author will also discuss about the factors which mothers should absorb in order to make their children learn about that how to make the surrounding environment safe. By absorbing the factors discussed in the paper, mothers can develop a kind of sensitivity for the surrounding environment in their wards. The author will also emphasize that it is the moral duty of our society to educate each and every girl so that when they become mothers they would be able to transform the retained information in their children. The author will make an attempt to share her views about the still existing mental illness of the society which says that a boy needs to be educated because he has to earn for the family but a girl does not require as she is only going to look after household work after the marriage. But what about the cognitive growth of a girl? Until and unless she does not grow mentally, she will not be able to do the same for her children also. Our society needs to look upon these limitations and should try to do justification with the woman who devotes her complete life for the family and children.

Keywords: Education, holistic development, attitude, environment

1. Introduction

Today's children are going to create our future generation. They should be equipped with all the necessary knowledge and awareness which should be helpful to them in order to make the world a better place to live. It's the duty of our society to provide them with a complete education which will help them in becoming responsible citizens of the Nation. A school is considered as a place where the child gets education which in turn helps in shaping and molding the future of the child. But the education starts with what children learn from their parents and from what they learn in the first few years of their lives. This initial education impacts the rest of their lives, and inherently society's future.

Parents have an enormous influence on their children's education for several reasons, but most importantly because they are their children's first teachers. The brain of a child can be compared with a sponge in the early years of his/her life. In these years a child tries to absorb everything surrounding them. Therefore, what they learn from their parents in the first couple years of their lives will impact children for the rest of their lives. It is important that children learn how to be excited about learning from an early age. Parents are the ones who need to instill this excitement in their children. But how can parents create this enthusiasm in their children? What qualities do parents need to possess in order to successfully motivate their children in school? Research shows that parents with a personal, educated background have a much easier time preparing their children for future as compared to parents lacking this background.

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Several researches have shown that the mother's education has a significant impact on her children's learning process. As the mother's are found to be more involved in their children day to day learning, their education and upbringing is greatly affected by them. More highly educated mothers have greater success in providing their children with the cognitive and language skills that contribute to the development of proper attitude and skills for the life long process.

2. Attitude towards Environment

Attitudes are the feelings and beliefs which a child develops at the early age. The process begins in the childhood only and the surrounding people especially parents are responsible for inculcating values, skills, attitudes and behavior in their children against anything. What kind of feeling a child develops against its surrounding environment decides its attitude towards the environment which might convert in to the positive behavior later on. For inculcating the right attitudes first of all the parents should develop the correct feelings and attitudes towards the environment so that their children can follow them and can develop a better attitude towards the surrounding environment. It is very important to take this seriously because our world is facing environmental crisis and young children of today are going to transform in to future generation tomorrow. Until and unless they don't develop the correct attitude the problems of environment cannot be reduced.

3. Why Mother's Need to Be Educated?

Past researches have shown that the mothers those who are educated would be able to take up the responsibilities of the family and their children in a far better way than the mothers who are uneducated. It is also seen that more the mothers are educated, more they would be able to inculcate the right values, culture, responsibility and attitude towards different situation in their children at an ease. Therefore, it is the moral responsibility of each and every citizen of our country to understand the importance of an educated women and the misconception of the society should be completely eliminated which still says in rural areas of our country that girls need not to be educated as they only have to do the household work after their marriage. We need to make each and every citizen of our country understand that a girl is the foundation stone for her child. She needs to look after her children. As she is more involved and more or less considered as responsible for all rights and wrongs happen with their child, she needs to be educated so that she can understand her child at each and every level of change and is capable enough to inculcate the right attitudes, values and skills in her child.

4. Factors Affecting the Attitude of a Child

The home environment and school environment together is responsible for developing the values, skills, attitude and behavior in the child. But a child remains for only 6-8 hours in school and rest of the time he/she spends with the family. In school time a child gets exposed to different teachers. But at home if the mother become a little conscious about performing environment friendly activities more, the child would also likely to learn and follow such kind of practices which will develop a positive attitude in him/her helpful for the sustainable development later on. A child learns by observing his/her parents at home. Here the mothers play an

important role as most of the time the mother accompanies their children for various purposes and meanwhile the children learn different things by observing their mother. According to the researches done an educated mother is able to develop proper attitude and values in their children at an ease as compared to uneducated mothers. An educated mother is well aware of the developing stages of her child and knows how to nurture the values and attitudes in him/her according to the stage which he/she is crossing from. Following are the factors which can make a remarkable change in the attitudes of children if followed by mothers-

4.1 Being a role model: The proper upbringing of child is the responsibility of both the parents. But as mothers are found to be spending more time with their children whether in working or non-working situation, a major responsibility lies on their shoulders to develop their children in right direction. Before we want anyone to follow ourselves, we need to do the right things practically. Children learn by observing their parents. As we are aware of that global environmental problems are increasing day by day and will increase in the coming future, it is the prime responsibility of mother to develop the feeling of love, care and sensitivity in their children for the surrounding nature. It will only happen when mothers themselves are sensitive towards nature. They should explain their children about the values of surrounding environment.

Mothers should discuss over environmental knowledge with their wards and then try to inculcate environmental awareness in their children with the help of few day to day activities which can develop a strong foundation in their children for future. They should make their children aware about the social responsibility for our environment. Before they expect their children to absorb all these things, they themselves should follow them as role models. Once they start following and show sensitivity towards nature there is no question for that their children will not develop the same feeling for future. This should be initiated by the mothers since the early childhood of their wards.

4.2 Cultural values for Environment: The concept of culture in anthropology has historically denoted a broad body of beliefs, customary behaviors and modes of social organization that are transmitted over generations. People's cultural values help to form environmental beliefs/attitudes predict preferences for environmentally friendly behavior. Therefore, it is important to understand culturally determined values related to the environmental behavior. For instance, tulsi is the plant which is being worshipped in the homes since years. Peepal is the tree which is being worshipped since years and it is found mostly outside the temples. So parents made their children learn in our country that trees are the Gods because they give us different types of products and eatables. Therefore they should not be harmed. Still in our country when the child plucks the flower without any reason, parents stop him/her from doing so. When the children see their parents respecting and worshipping these plants, they also develop sensitivity against them which last longer throughout their life time.

4.3 Interaction with nature: As much as a person is close to nature, he/she will automatically develop love for the nature. So it is the responsibility of parents to develop a

close association between the nature and their children so that they start loving the nature. This can be done if they take their children frequently close to the nature by visiting nearby parks or if they ask their children to water the plants and observe their developmental process. By doing this they will develop a sense of affection for surrounding nature. When it happens, if anything goes wrong in future with their surrounding nature, they would try to take measures for solving the issues.

4.4 Participation in Environmental activities: Mothers should encourage their children to participate more and more in environmental activities so that the children remain in touch with what is happening in their surrounding environment and try to handle it with the activities performed by the organizations which remain involved in the programs and projects of improving the surrounding environment for the sustainable development so that the future generation can also get the benefits of surrounding environment at the same rate as we are getting.

4.5 Practicing at home front: A child will not be able to learn the environment protection practices until and unless they don't observe them in their surroundings. So mothers should try to involve the practices like sorting waste and putting them in different bins, try to reduce waste, recycling material, buying ecofriendly products, avoid buying products in aerosol containers, ban of polythene and so many other measures can be taken at home front so that they get incorporated in the children also for the future benefits.

5. Conclusion

Education for girls and women has many positive effects. Girls learn and become more involved in society and leadership as they become women. Girls also gain more self-esteem from greater knowledge itself and greater access to knowledge if they are educated.

"When you educate a man, you educate an individual and when you educate a woman, you educate an entire family."

This declaration is multi faceted—an educated woman has the self confidence, skills as well as intelligence to understand the need to be a better daughter, sister, wife and mother and make a progressive family. Education is the only tool with which a girl or a woman can empower herself and eventually her family." An educated mother can give better care to her children. Since she is the first teacher of the child, she is ought to be well versed to inculcate better value system in the child. Therefore as mother plays a significant role in the life of their children, they should be educated. Our government should see to it that the girls in rural areas should also be exposed to basic education facilities as the attitude, values, behavior and much more of the future generation depends on them. Mothers as parents share more responsibility for developing future citizens of our country.

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