

An Evaluation Study for Early Childhood Education

by Dr Shahida Mohiyuddin Sufi

AN EVALUATION STUDY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION / OBJECTIVES

- **Pakistan is among those developing countries, where progress in the field of education is quite slow. Usually early years of learning i.e. three of five years are consumed at home without planned educational activities and children's potentials are not nurtured in a proper way.**

The Objectives of this study was two folds:

- To evaluate early childhood education in Pakistan against a set of predetermined parameters.
- To study the difference in the attitude towards young girls and young boys(3-5 years) in family, school and society.

METHOD:

- To study the institutions of early childhood from urban to rural areas of Pakistan. Fifty teachers, fifty parents and fifty children were interviewed and observed in natural setting. Robert Stake's Countenance Model was adopted to document and report the findings in qualitative form. The field study was divided in ten sub-studies. With the help of sample notes, specific portrayals and case studies were developed.

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RESULTS:

In Pakistan, though most of the Private schools stated higher aims and objectives, in most cases teaching the children goes on in traditional manner, i.e. from book to black board. The early childhood education programs look after the children's academic needs and over look their health and psychosocial development. Overall in Private preschools activity based teaching approach was in action. In government schools there were no concepts of children's activities and play.

RESULTS:

- Children were doing rote memorization of their lessons. In rural areas parents explicitly expressed preference for their son's education as compared to their daughters. From early childhood girls have less chance to play and enjoy the company of their friends. Government school teachers consider early childhood education to prepare for the class One, where as private school teachers have clear concept of preschool education i.e. to provide an opportunity to express, socialize, knowing own self and develop the ability of problem solving.

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RESULTS:

- In urban preschools of Pakistan parents are involved in their children's education. Where as in rural areas parents are not involved in their children's education. To involve the community in childhood education is still not conceptualized in our schools. All private schools charge high fees and making it inaccessible for many children. The government schools have nominal fees but quality education is not available in those schools.

CONCLUSION:

- The evaluation of early childhood education in Pakistan through this study identified that early childhood education practice should correlate with attainable goals. Equal treatment of boys and girls is necessary to remove biases in the society. Parents and teachers partnership is essential to achieve the desired results. Preschool education delivery is inadequate and many children of Pakistan are deprived of early childhood education.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Early childhood Education should be part of education development of Pakistan. For this purpose political awareness and commitment should also be developed.**
- **Integrated curriculum should be developed to look after the whole development of the children.**
- **Inexpensive early hood programs should be developed for rural and urban areas of Pakistan with the government support and active community participation.**