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A STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY INFLUENCES
ON EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
IN OGBOMOSO SOUTH LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

AN ESSAY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION,
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ABSTRACT

This study is titled 'A Study of the Effects of Contemporary Influences on Early Childhood Education in Ogbomoso, South Local Government. It is aimed at highlighting things that affect Early Childhood Education adversely in Ogbomoso South Local Government Area of Oyo State as case study.

A questionnaire specifically designed for the purpose of the research was administered using stratified sampling technique to ensure that only parents with children and nursery school teachers were administered the questionnaire. The data collated from the questionnaire was analyzed by the use of simple percentages.

Factors that affect Early Childhood Education were evaluated through the responses of parents and nursery school teachers. The study revealed that the home environment greatly affect early childhood education. Crowded homes, much hours spent watching TV, leaving children completely in the care of house maids, divorce, lack of good home discipline and non-availability of parents form those things in the home that adversely affect early childhood. While crowed classroom, poor teachers' qualification, school curriculum expecting too much from present day child and lack of responsive and positive child-teacher interaction fall under the factors in the school environment that adversely affect early childhood education.

Recommendations of the study include the need for parents to spend quality time with their children, reduction in the number of hours children spend watching TV, respect of teacher/pupil ratio in classrooms, and emphasis on teacher training.

Conclusion

From the findings, the following conclusions are drawn. It is established that some homes do not provide an enabling environment for early childhood education. The homes are over crowded and some times children are allowed to spend much time watching TV. It may be very difficult to have enough space in the home for the child given the African concept of extended family and lack of funds to construct a house large enough to support the size of the family. However there should be cooperation in the family to help the young children have an enabling environment that promotes his education. Lack of good home discipline is another factor that adversely affects early childhood education.

It is equally seen that there is a great relationship between parents' involvement in early childhood education and its outcome. The more parents get involved in their children's education the better the performance of these children academically. Parents should be involved in their children's education. Ryle (2011, 8) said parents should train their children with this thought continually before their eyes that soul of their children is the first thing to be considered.

It is concluded that some crowded classrooms do not offer an enabling environment for early childhood education. It is equally concluded that teacher's qualification and a responsive and positive teacher to child interaction is very important in enhancing early childhood education. From separation anxiety to early literacy development, the early childhood educator must be versed in the physical and emotional development of babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Moreover, it is established that early exposure of the child to education leads to positive outcomes later in life. It was also established that nursery schools of today are fulfilling the purpose of early childhood education by providing children with an effective and smooth transition from the home to the school; an opportunity to be in a social situation where their all round readiness can be appraised before they must face challenges of primary school; an opportunity to have a wide variety of experiences particularly adapted to their developmental needs; an opportunity of inculcating the spirit of enquiry and creativity through the exploration of nature and the local environment, playing with toys, artistic and musical activities etc.

Recommendations

Based on the various findings, the following are hereby recommended:

1. Parents should be the primary educators of their children. They should devote much time to be with their children rather than leaving them in the care of house maids. In the case where both parents must work, they should work at having flexible work schedules and job sharing opportunities.
2. Children must be guided on the number of hours they spend on Television viewing. In the case where television is used as a teaching aid the teacher should preview before allowing the children to watch and this should be within international acceptable hours for children.
3. Teacher to pupil ratio should be respected in early childhood centres and emphasis should be given on training early childhood educators.
4. Teachers should develop a good responsive and positive teacher to child interaction in his/her teaching.

5. It is appropriate that the education of the children be along their developmental stages. That is the education of the children should focus on the typical developmental patterns of children and the uniqueness of each child.

6. There should be a synergy among parents, teachers, and early childhood education policy makers. When these three come together the pupil should be the centre of their discussion.