

Assessment Component 2

Written Essay (2,500 words)

Student name: Flavia Apio

Student ID: 2023550

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Lecturer name: Jolly Nwankwo

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Introduction

This is an essay that will investigate the emergence of childhood, along with how families have been constituted socially and historically. It is going to be a special focus of a well-written and logically arranged type.

Key facets of family life and childhood are discussed, along with definitions of childhood.

Any individual younger than the age of eighteen is considered a kid, unless the child's relevant legislation specifies that majority is achieved earlier. (UNICEF, n.d).

Any group of two or more individuals who reside together and are related by blood, marriage, or adoption are referred to collectively as a family. (HRSA, 2023).

Key Elements of family life

- Children that are raised in secure families experience comfort and security.
- Effective communication, warmth and compassion, and predictability.
- All of these traits of strong families include significant links to people outside the family.
- Self-care is advantageous to you and your family. (Raising Children Network, 2023).

Childhood

Four essential elements of a child's growth can be observed at each milestone a child reaches. These attributes are made up of physical, intellectual, emotional, and social characteristics. Although these four categories are independent from one another, they do interact as enhancing one quality typically enhances another. A child's social curiosity, for instance, alters as their intellectual capacity increases. (Reding, 2023).

Historical construction of childhood

The hypothesis that views on children vary among civilizations (or how it is "constructed") is referred to as childhood social building. "Children as good," "Children as evil," and "Children as innocent" are some instances where social constructs. If you believe that childhood is socially constructed, you believe that various cultures and eras of history can have various viewpoints on it. (Drew, 2023)

According to (Ariès, 1960), Between the 10th and the 13th centuries in Britain, children were not considered to be separate from adults. He based this assertion on the following information:

- Generally, the law did not distinguish between juveniles and adults.
- Young children were expected to start working to support the family.
- In historical art, children are portrayed as young adults who are similarly dressed and eager to cooperate.

According to Ariès, it was about the thirteenth century when the notion that childhood is a separate period of life first emerged. due to the fact that children were not always treated in the same manner, he contends, historical trends demonstrate that childhood is a social construct.

The idea that childhood is a social construct contends that it is not dependent on chronological age but rather is socially produced. The idea that children should prioritise their education before making money serves as an example of how society shapes childhood.

Theories of how society constructs childhood claim that it is a unique stage of life that is not universal and subject to cultural variation. Theorists such as Ariès offer historical illustrations of how childhood has been socially created and demonstrate how viewpoints about the nature, roles, and responsibilities of children have evolved over time. (StudySmarter, 2023)

Children are no longer permitted to work for money as a result of laws that restrict child employment. They went from being a financial asset to a financial weakness. Every youngster had to attend school after the introduction of mandatory education in 1880. Raising the leaving age has resulted in an increase in the age of dependency for children. Children's welfare has evolved into a core principle thanks to child protection and regulation. The idea of children's rights has grown over time. The Children's Act, for instance, declares that parents are accountable for their children. Health care, education, and the prevention of abuse are rights for children. laws and rules that are primarily directed at children, such as those governing sex, smoking, and drinking. These contribute to support the idea that there

are fundamental differences between children and adults and that some aspects of adult life ought to be avoided. (Weebly, n.d)

Effects of the factors on kids, teens, and families.

To illustrate how the cycle can operate, consider the relationship between a child's level of social and emotional development and its implications on that person's mental health and other outcomes later in life. The social and emotional competencies that a person possesses, such as self-awareness, social awareness, relationship skills, emotional control, and responsible decision-making, have a significant impact on their progress. According to studies, children who have stronger social and emotional abilities are more likely to finish school, succeed in their careers, have fulfilling relationships at home and at work, maintain top mental and physical health, and get involved in their communities. They have a lower propensity to participate in criminal or antisocial activities. (EIF, 2023).

The predictable, unfair, and systemic differences in health outcomes among diverse groups of newborns, children, and teenagers are known as health inequalities. Health inequalities are caused by the social, economic, and environmental facets of a person's surroundings that influence their health outcomes. Race, financial status, housing, climate change, and access to local government services are all covered. (RCPCH, 2022).

It is more difficult for poor parents to give their children a healthy diet and way of life.

Families may be more likely to eat inexpensive but nutritionally deficient food, which can lead to childhood obesity and malnutrition, because nutritious meals cost almost three times as much per calorie as less healthful items. Food instability and recent rises in residential energy expenses may require households to decide between paying for food and utility expenses. Living in a cold environment, for instance, aggravates respiratory ailments, which has a detrimental effect on physical health. Due to financial limitations, low-income households might not be able to afford essential hygiene supplies. For instance, One in ten adolescents who menstruate lack access to sanitary products and cannot afford period products, which might result in lost school days or the use of improvised menstruation products. Adverse childhood experiences, which are frequently repeated, are three times more frequent in the environment of poverty than in wealth and have a cumulative deleterious impact on physical and mental health in later life. The roots for healthy growth of a strong respiratory system are laid throughout infancy; infants who spend their first winter in cold housing will use more calories for blood sugar regulation and body temperature regulation than for organ development. Because they do not have a smartphone or internet access, low-income families may also be facing a phenomenon known as "digital exclusion," which discourages individuals from using digital health solutions. (RCPCH, 2022).

Methods and interventions to help families and children who are at risk.

Children and young people have a 50% increased risk of mental health issues during the past three years, in part due to the epidemic, but 60% of those referred by a GP do not receive any type of mental health care. It has been demonstrated that poor mental health has detrimental consequences on education, work, relationships, and physical health in later life in addition to having an impact on children. As a result, mentoring has been demonstrated to be one of the strategies that may consistently and successfully assist kids in overcoming challenging situations and bringing about a wide range of excellent consequences throughout their lives. (The Kids Network, 2021).

Early intervention can help children and teenagers develop the skills necessary to live happy, successful lives. It can improve academic performance, promote mental health, and strengthen family and home life for kids. Early intervention is crucial to minimising the negative impacts of economic deprivation, promoting social mobility, and lowering some of the risks that might jeopardise a child's future. It cannot, however, solve every problem and is not a miracle cure.

Future consequences of not intervening early can include a range of negative ones. By then, it might already be too late since these problems might worsen, become more destructive, and be more difficult to handle after a person approaches adolescence or maturity. (EIF, 2023).

According to research, providing children with early support and Intervention can keep them safe, reduce the need to submit them to child protective authorities, and enhance their long-term results, enhance their home and family life, and help them build the strengths and abilities they'll need to succeed as adults. (NSPCC, 2023).

Evaluation and Recommendations

Some of the interventions effectiveness in reducing inequalities are; encouraging healthy habits, Healthy environments (such as a school, business, neighbourhood, or community) are those where individuals actively use and create the environment, economic considerations, accessibility to public services, employment and working conditions, and social transfers) within a socioeconomic environment. (Morrison, J. et al, 2014)

Reducing inequality requires an understanding of its causes and impacts, which can be complex and deeply ingrained in social, economic, political, and environmental systems and resources. Consequently, the EU's strategy is multifaceted; Enhance social services and ensure that everyone has access to social protection, encourage safe migration and mobility and address irregular migration, adopt pro-poor fiscal policies, create fair and transparent tax systems, boost domestic resource mobilisation, and energise the public and private sectors development. Empower women and provide opportunities for youth and underserved communities.

Child protection will be more incisive and effective when a child is in danger of suffering serious damage. To keep kids safe, Teachers, social workers, nurses, medics, and police officers will collaborate more effectively in the future. They should discuss the best ways to assist with the kids, their parents, and other family members. When a kid is unable to live with their parents, social workers try to assist grandparents, aunts, and uncles in providing secure homes for kids in what are referred to as "kinship care" you attempt to place children in excellent foster situations (The Education Hub, 2023).

Family Support and Intervention Teams help children and their families who have been declared to be in need (including child protection) under the Children Order. They also review case plans and offer services. (North Heath and Social Care Trust, 2020).

The Children Act of 2004 established the powerful policy "Every child matters," which placed a high priority on the wellbeing of those between the ages of 0 and 18. The "better outcomes" for children, such as a healthy, secure, and financially stable life, are the focus of this. An earlier version of this Act went into effect in 1989.

The phrase "early help," which is most frequently used in England, often used to describe comprehensive services like children's centres and open access youth services, and health that are intended to improve outcomes for all kids. Early intervention is a term frequently used to refer to services that are more particularly focused on treating a person's risks and protective factors, such as parenting support programmes, mentoring programmes for children, and behaviour change initiatives.

Conclusion

It's also crucial to be conscious of the fact that your gestures, tone of voice, or even your words or facial expressions could act as triggers. Children that are vulnerable are frequently overly perceptive to nonverbal clues. The staff also needs this "relationship-based" method of working with children. Mutual assistance is crucial.

The idea that childhood is a social construct contends that it is not dependent on chronological age but rather is socially produced. The proponents of this thesis assert that society moulds and controls certain facets of childhood. These address the period of childhood as well as the attitudes, duties, and rights that apply to children of various ages.

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