



Children, Young People and Families.

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Assessment (2)

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Introduction:

This essay is going to emphasis on childhood as a social constructed concept and will be providing different global aspect of his definition and discuss important elements of childhood and family life, right from historical period till present times. The assignment is still going to focus on all the changes that has been witness in the lives of children and families from Greek time till date and makes some comparison between United Kingdom and Yemen, on how childhood is been seen by these two countries.

The assignment we move further to highlight the improvement in social policy, legislation and factor that already had influenced on childhood and families. Also, the impact of such factor in improving the well-being of children and family, likewise how it has reduced the inequalities in education, healthcare sector, will be explained.

The discussion is still going to analyse and identify all the intervention, approaches that help to support families, young person and children with their potential impact and benefit, more also how the emergence of neuroscience has changed our thought and beliefs about childhood will surely be discusses.

What is Childhood?

The legal definition of childhood according to the United Nation Convention on the right of a child (UNCRC) classified “a child as everyone under the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”. While in England, a child is being defined as someone who has not yet get to their eighteen birthdays (NSPCC, 2021) .

Biologically, childhood can also be defined, as the period of a human organism within new-born and adolescence. The first 12 month is referred to as infancy and dominate with the concept of infancy, while the rest of the years until adolescence are group into early childhood (1-5 years), middle childhood 6-10 years, and pre-adolescence 11-12 years, (Wakim and Grewal, 2021).

Also, Thorne, (1987) cited in web solutions (2021) that, childhood has been defined as a state or a stage of incapacity. That is children are believed to be incapable of performed adult rights (Web Solutions, 2021).

Although, Philippe Aries argued that “childhood is a socially constructed phenomenon” which mean that our believe and ideas regarding childhood is being cause by society, socio-economic and cultural factor, instead of being decided by the biological years of a child. And that during Middle Ages, which is from 10th to 13th century that there is nothing like childhood, he did not exist (Thompson, 2015)

Child Prostitutes in Thailand.

For an example, in Thailand there is a small community called Baan Nua, that is known for his tourism attraction that is looking for sex. Also, many of the migrant in this community live in makeshift protection, that whenever is rainy it leaks and without no sort of social security assistant or welfare that is available for the resident of this community, so children’s working is very important to the family, for them to survive.

Most of the family are headed by women while their child’s is expected to bring money home, as soon as they are able to start earning money for the families seen image1, so for this reason, most of the children in this small community involved in prostitutes with tourist that visited annually, which they explained to be that, of their culture and obligation to help and support their family. (Evans, 2012).



image1 Source: (Chiangraitime, nd).

Children in Yemen.

Education: according to report by UNICEF, (2021) which can be seen in image2, analysed that children's education in Yemen has become one of the highest casualties of the country devastating and ongoing crises. Over 2 million school children, boys and girls are now out of school due to conflict, poverty and lack of opportunities which has disrupt their education.

The finding also highlighted that over 170, 000 schoolteachers have not gotten their regular wages for over 4 years now, (UNICEF, 2021) due to geopolitical division and conflict of which had already put additional around 4 million school children at risk of dropping out of school or disrupted their education as unpaid schoolteacher are quitting their jobs to looked for other means to provide for their dependent.

Child Labour: in Yemen, between twenty three percent of the children age around 5years to 14years are in child labour, as they are also subjected to malice and cruelty. More also, subjected to slavery and sexual exploitation, as their physical, health, mental and their development are seriously affected as a result of this.

Child Marriage: Yemen, the culture of child marriage is very common, it is estimated that more than 30% of the young lady, before they get to the age of 18 are married. In some villages they even get married between 12 to 13 years and sometime got pregnant at 15 and living in extremely bad condition. And because of their young age the delivery of the babies, is sometime fatal to them.

And, because they do not choose their husband themself, so for this reason they always find themself in marital violence and without them having no say of their own, they will be forced to live and cope with these despicable, abuse and loathsome men (Uumanium, 2011).



Image2 Source: (UNICEF, 2021)

Britain

In this country, it is the society that decided when childhood should start and end. And the age limit is currently set at eighteen years, that is when the person will get to the age of 'legal entitlement'. Moreover, in Britain children do not just become adults at this age (18 years), is a very long changing period from childhood, through adolescence right into adulthood. Some legal entitlements are gradually picking up by the children as they develop through their teenage years, for example the age of sexual consent is set at sixteen, while children can also work from the age of 14, and the age in which they can start to drive is set at 17. With all this classification, it shows that is the society that determines the age at which childhood ends. (Thompson, 2015).

Education: in England, young children without or with learning difficulties, most now be educated or be in training, until they are at least the age of 16 years, while before they got to their 18 years, they most choose one of the following likes Firstly, start a traineeship programme or an apprenticeship, Secondly, volunteer or work for 20 hours or more a week, while you still in part-time training or education. Thirdly, remained in full-time education.

And all council in this country must make sure they involve family, young people and children in any decisions concerning them and the local council by putting into consideration their feeling, views, wishes, allowing them to engage as much as possible in decisions making and to provide them with support and information that will enable them to participate in anything concerning them (Mencap, nd).

Changed in Childhood and Family from Historical Time to Present

Greek Period: around this time children were so important to their parents, because without any parents having a child, is like having no one to inherit the father wealth and property when he died. Most especially women from high-status families, were put in for diplomacy between her natal family and the family she is getting married to. And some of the arrangement is, as she is expected to have a child. As agriculture was one of the only means of surviving so having more children is like having more helper to help with the work (Mmetodieva, 2020).

Children were born at home and to ensure the labour went well, all the household women would be present and there might be a female midwife as well. And just in case of any complication a male physician will be call upon for assistance. In some cases, the babies died just few days after delivery, for this there were generally a waiting time after the babies was born, it will take a week time before a babies can be named.

And since a childbirth has been seen as unclean activity, after a week in case the child survived there will be a purification ceremony and the child will be officially named, and just in case the babies are deformed this put the guardian or the father in a position to abandon the babies, especially if the child is a girl. Most time these children that was left outdoors to die were pick up by different family and raised up as slave (History for Kids, 2021).

Roman Period: during this period, the male has almost absolute authority over his family as they are the head of the family, this is since Roman was a patriarchal nation where the women did not have much say either in public or private life. And a father to his children could decide almost everything for the children such as lifestyle, education and dressing (Legends and Chronicles, 2021).

Within this time the children also indulging in various games as he can been seen in image3, like war games which were so popular among the boy, so that they can looked like the warriors and there are still some other games like blind men's bluff and hide-and-seek.



image3 Source: (Legends and Chronicles, 2021)

Medieval Period: at a very small age children were expected to help at home with a task that is suitable for their development and age, and they can also care for sibling and animals, cook, fetch water and even assist in the family business. Although some of the boys were able to attend the monastic school or local cathedral to acquire the quadrivium and trivium. And they were groomed as member of the clergy, either as clerks or as priests, even any of the higher position like doctor, lawyers and bishops (Medieval, 2018).

And that during this time there was nothing like childhood, was brutish, short, nasty or not even existent, that children were mostly seen as imperfect adults and that most of the people are not even sure of their own age. All most all the time the infants were regarded as intrinsically evil, which they must be redeemed through education and instruction (The Economist, 2019).

Industrial Revolution Period: within this time a lot of family who were lower middle class or poor, found themselves trying to earn a living that is insufficient to take care of their expenses. And because of the Industrial Revolution that is springing up most of the family were forced to relocate to the growing industrial town in order to make a better life, although the wages were so low, for this reason many families have no other alternative, than to seek for supplemental work because they were faced with debt and hardship, the only option available for them in order to make enough money, was to have their children employed.

Child labour: children growing up during the Industrial Revolution go through an entirely new pattern of child labour which can be seen in image 4, may be which they have not experienced before and they were used for so many common occupations like, mills, and factories work, coal mining, chimney sweeping and rat catching, and they have to work long hour, at least ten to fourteen hour a day in a very terrible and hard condition (Foundations of Western Culture, 2021).



Image4 Source: (FUSE, nd)

Legislation: there was a campaign against child labour that dominated two important pieces of legislation during the Industrial Revolution, the Mines Act (1842) this Act increased the starting age of colliery employment to ten years and the Factory Act (1833) that also prohibited any children that is below 9 years from employment and cut down on the hour children between 9-13 could work. These two Acts have brought an end to the systematic employment of the young children and brought the industrial districts in line with the whole of the country (Griffin, 2014).

Victorian Period till Present time: children around Victorian time, lived a different life, to children of today. Children of the poor must engage in work to earn money for them to assist their parents as a result of this, many could not go to school. So many of them must have worked with their family at

home by sewing or making matchboxes. Sending children to get education could mean the parents losing money the child could earn if he or she worked. But children from rich families, they were regularly taught at home by hire private tutor.

Their health as well, many died from disease such as scarlet fever, cholera and measles. Babies living in damp house and over-crowded were at more risk from tuberculosis and diarrhoea. Even those within the rich families lose their life as a result of poor medical care (Museum of London, 2011).

Presently, Cunningham (2006) claims that the 19th century saw the social construction of being a childhood by adults. That was seen to might have 3 major characteristics. Firstly, it was the other side of adult as they were regarded as someone in need of protection and to be dependent on adult, Secondly, both the world of the child and adult were to be kept aside, while the schools and the home were seen as the best place for children, and they were banned most of the time from adult spaces such as working environment. Lastly, right to happiness is compulsory for children.

Child-centred society: this as result to improvement in living standards such as, housing, wages, nutrition, hygiene sanitation and the improvement in maternal health care which had led to a major decrease in the infant mortality rate, and this has stopped the reason people need to have so many children in order to ensure that few of them lives. And the state also oversees the socialisation of children with the help of compulsory education (Revision World, 2021).

Factors that have contribute to changes in childhood.

Children Act 1989: section 17 of this Act requires the local council to give due consideration to children wishes when deciding on what type of services they are to provide.

The Equality Act 2010 has help put a responsibility on government to a proper regard to the need to erase discrimination and canvas for equality of opportunity. Including the process of identification of risk and need faced by the individual (Legislation, 2011)

The United Nation Convention on the Right of the Child. This is a legally binding international document setting out the political, civil, social economic and cultural right of every child in regard of their abilities, religion and race must be protected. That government are to make sure they meet children basic needs. All children must receive education that will make to fulfil their potential. They must as well be protected from abuse or neglect (Save the Children, 2011).

Childcare: the new entitlement to 30 hour of free childcare is to help working families the bill of childcare and allowed them, where they wish to work or to return as this is crucial to working parents.

Infant free school meals: this is made sure that all children in government funded school the one in reception class, year1 and year2 received free school meals (Department for Education, 2015).

Image5 Sources: (HM Government, 2018)



And the emergence of Neuroscience about child development, according to Maslow's theory of hierarchy needs, that human being in order to get to full potentials need, they need to move in hierarchical order, starting from physiological needs like, toilet, water, food. Safety need like, protection, house and relationship. Belonging needs like, making friend, relationship, family and sexual intimacy. Esteem needs like, confidence, respect of others, achievement and self-esteem. Self-actualization needs likes, problem solving, acceptance of facts, lack of prejudice and morality (Simply Psychology, 2020)

Conclusion

This essay has really made me to know are various legislation and social policy had help to improve childhood from what it used to be years back from child labour to neglect and slavery. With the help of some Act like Children Act, Equality Act and some policy like, infant free meals and childcare had really changed the life of children and families in the UK.

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