



Assessment Component 2

Written Essay

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This essay will be examining what childhood is and its social construction created by the environment they live in. An overview of how childhood has changed over the years through historical times till present. Varieties of family lives will be described and the different act that were created in other to protect children from being harm. Contribution of factors used in improving inequality among children and how they were reduced, also explanations on why the factors changed. different theories of child development will be discussed and the interventions that are being used to help support children, young people, and family in present times with its effectiveness will be identified and analysed.

Legally a child is referred to as one who is under the age of 18, in England a child is defined as someone who is underage no matter what circumstances they are in such as living independently, in further education, a member of armed forces, in hospital and in custody in the secure estate. Child protection guidance ensures all are being protected (NSPCC, 2021). Although biologically a child is conceived and belongs to parents who he or she carries their genes (Webster, 2019). The social policy of a child says every child deserves the same chance as everyone in life without be partial (UNICEF, 2018).

The term childhood is an age status, this is the time where there are no worries no responsibilities. Every childhood experience is different across many societies, period and between different people. Having a childhood is not something that can be predicted, but due to way the society have set a standard. The importance of social construction within the society is the way they have set up their norms, values, and beliefs. The society believe childhood is mainly about playing in other for younger people to find themselves and develop any new potentials (Thompson, 2018).

Phillip Aries believes the term childhood did not exist in 10th to the 13th century because children were classified as equal just like adults. Children started working at an early age and the law made no legislation that differs children and adults (Thompson, 2015).

In Nigeria about 10.5 million children between the age of 5-14 years are not in school, while 61 percent of age 6-11 years old attend primary school but only 35.6 percent of the children 36-59 months old receive education from early childhood (UNICEF, 2013).

On the contrary in the UK, it is compulsory for all children of age 5- 16 to get education and that is because they believe education is important in life (GOV.UK, 2012).

In 2007 there was a report stating that 60,000 people below the age of 118 were involved in prostitution system in Thailand (Favre, 2020), while in the UK it is a serious crime and a punishable offence by law which will lead to prison as sexual exploitation (CPS, 2019).

There are different types of family life but having a strong family life and good childhood is not a smooth train ride due to obstacles that could prevent a parent from doing their duties and providing the best care their child needs. Although to have a strong that means a good foundation would have been laid out and will be able to withstand any hiccups (Shady Oak Primary School, 2021).

There are varieties of families in the UK such as nuclear family, extended family, reconstituted family, single parent family, same-sex family. Nuclear family consist of parent with different number children living together. The children could be biological, non-biological or step. Extended families are mixed with grandparent, uncles, aunts, and cousins who all living in the same household or close to each other, this type of family is called extended because any of the couple's family members who live in the household changes the narrative (Gask, 2014).

Reconstituted family are families that have some which could also be name as stepfamily because one of the adults in the family has bring in a child from their previous relationships and living with their new formed family. Single family involves only one parent because they do not have a partner and they are the only one who is responsible for caring for their child/children. Same-sex family are couple who are unable to bear a child on their own so for them to have a child they will have to adopt or one member of the couple could biologically give birth to their own. Grandparent family raise their grandchildren for many reasons such as parent being a drug addict, parent being dead, abandonment, or being an unfit parent (Blessing, 2011).

Since the 19th centuries the children's lives have changed severally, although during the 19th century the children from working class families were working in factories, mines and mills which had a bad impact on them due to the unsafe environment they were working at. Children were also required to take on adult job roles in their homes such as domestic chores and looing after relatives who are sick. During mid-19th centuries the attitude towards children started to change as adult realise that their life is different from the children's own, so they started looking after and protecting the kids from hardship of adult life mostly especially the path of work rather they started guiding and educating them (Thompson, 2020).

There was factory act in the 19th century which changed and enabled male worker to have limits on their working hours and at some point, the act banned factories from employing

people who are under certain ages. The factory act 1833 was one of the first act that restricted child labour, so some factories workers were not allowed to employ children who are under the age of 9 and ensure all children from age 9 to 13 were given 12 hours of education a week (Thompson, 2020). In the 1880 an Education Act was established making it compulsory for all children who are up to the age 10 should attend (Thompson, 2020).

1880s legislation started to prosecute people who were cruel towards children, today In the UK many factors have come in to play including child abuse deaths and subsequent inquiries to help develop the child protection systems (NSPCC, 2021b).

All children act within the UK are consequently reviewed and updated with contribution from stakeholders. In 1945 an inquiry about child abused took place which led to the death of a 12 years of child who was killed by his foster father. In 1946 a children's care committee led by Dame Myra Curtis, id an inquiry and recommendations on how care is given to children who were not living with their parents or relatives in England and Wales. In Scotland, James L. Clyde led a committee on homeless children which had same result as Dame Myra Curtis. Their recommendation allowed the development of 1948 Children Act (NSPCC, 2021b).

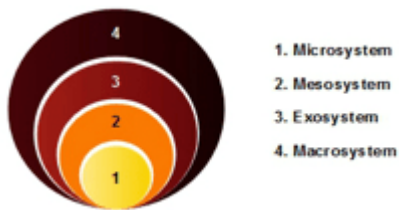
The Children Act 1948 states the duty of the local authority is to provide care for any child who have parent that are unable to care for them, if it is for the child's best interest. 1973 Children Act enables all professionals working with children to identify and respond to child abuse and neglect including the Children Act 1975 that was established from the 1945 Act. It ensures the role of independent social worker is to make the best decision that will be of an interest to the child during court proceedings (NSPCC, 2021b).

The UN convention on the Rights of children 1991 states all children should have right to life, education, non-discrimination, protection from harm and abuse and healthy life development irrespective of the backgrounds or cultures they come from.

The factors have changed in other to protect children from being harm and to improve their childhood as over the past year's children have been treated poorly which has had some many impacts on them physically, psychologically and mentally.to ensure the children are getting the right care they need all the act created have been acting accordingly in other for the children to be healthy and be well taken care of (CDC, 2019).

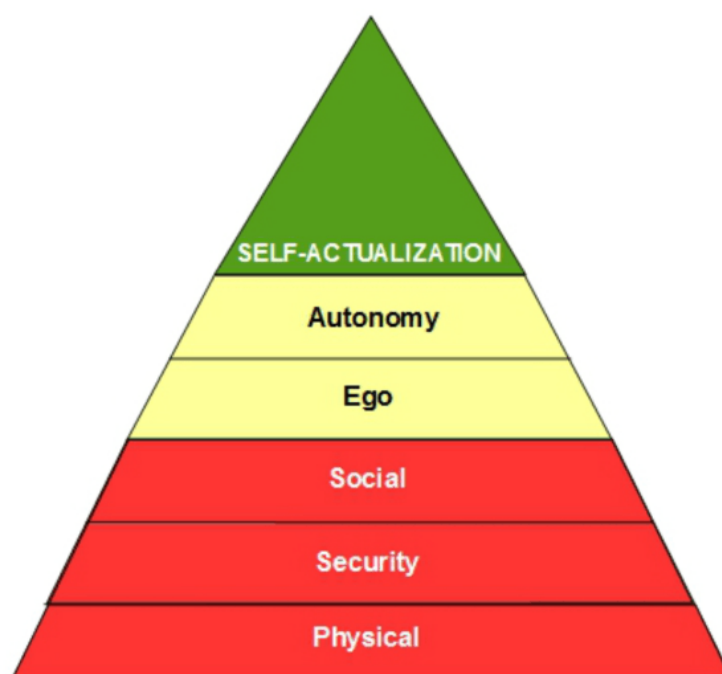
A good childhood is very essential for a child because it will have a positive impact on their development for a long-term and their health benefits too which will help them in the future.an healthy development of a childhood allows the child's needs to be met. Having a home that's warmth with love and care with families who spend time with each other is very essential, also having a good diet, exercise and sleeping can have a big impact too. Parents

need to ensure they are providing to their children needs, setting boundaries, supporting the child by ensuring they are safe and well, using an appropriate form of discipline to keep the children in order without being harsh also contributes to their developments (CDC, 2019).



(Williams, 2018)

Bronfenbrenner ecological system explains how the environment can have an impact on a child. He created key concepts of ecological system that interact with each other such as microsystem who is the main character (The child). This type of system looks at the type of human relationship a child develops within his personal surroundings. The mesosystem is the family school, nursery, teacher, playground, and relationships. The exosystem is made up of the health care services, people in local areas, extended families, and friends, these are the people that do not affect the child directly but some of their action could indirectly affect the child. The macrosystem is the law, legislation policy and value of society that their decisions could affect the child's development (Williams, 2018).



(Williams, 2018a)

Maslows's theory is based on hierarchy of needs, he explains the theories in a pyramid with five levels. Maslow made the physiological needs such as water, food and toilet was place at the bottom of the hierarchy, safety needs came in order which includes, relationships, house and protection that will make family feel safe. Love/belonging needs will allow a child to be able to build relationships with friends and loved one, esteem needs will make them independent, brave, and confident and self-actualization can be a bit difficult for a child because they are not fully developed yet but they will be able to reach this stage over time (Williams, 2018a).

There are many universal services provided for families with children in other for them to have a comfortable lifestyle. The services provided includes Gp, health visitors and school, it is available for everyone in the UK including leisure centre and community parks (Admin, n.d.). In schools free school meals are provided to families with low income and every child need food to survive just like Maslow's pyramid food is also a priority one needs.

Interventions is a form of support provided to families with young people and children when a problem arises and needs to be attended to. The service helps families with the challenges they are facing, and they ensure it is given early before the problem escalates. When the family or child needs are attended to early then the risk factors reduces because they are protections in place for them, like strong social and emotional skills, strong family support, good parental mental health, income support, benefits and advice, community services and facilities (NSPCC, 2019).

The intervention will help children and young people develop new skills if they are in a healthy head space, they will be able to live a happy and successful lives. It can improve the relationships children have with their families in their homes and increase their education attendance and their mental health. Although the intervention might not fix all the problems the family, children and young people have but it will encourage them to do better because when no early intervention takes place then it can lead to multiple problems (Early Intervention Foundation, 2018).

Early intervention foundation (2018) mission is to help children reach their potentials which they believe will have an effective impact on hundreds of thousands of children across the country. In other to improve the life of children, good homes with better environment should and reduction of housing cost should be given to families. Inequality of income would help improve the health of a child because poverty is a public health issue. The public health service needs to ensure they can recognise mental health in children at an early stage and make it a priority for the child to live a good life before risks start to occur (Child Poverty Action Group, 2016). It is the duty of the government to provide educational systems that

works for every child because every child deserves education, so in this case government need to make a regulation that suggest minimising segregation in education and promoting more social mx within school pupils.

In conclusion, although there have been a lot of changes in the lives of children in the UK but there are still many improvements that needs to be made. Equality between children is vital in other for all children to feel comfortable amongst their peers and not feel segregated.

Troubled family programme was created in 2012 to help family who are facing adversities like drug abuse, domestic violence, neglect, mental health turns their lives around the government reports states they were to help 1116,654 of 1117,00 identified families and they saw a good outcome by May 2015 (Bate, Bellis and Loft, 2020). This shows that many agencies are willing to work together to help improve family, children, and young people life's so that they can live comfortably.

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