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childhood

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Introduction

The essay will discuss the meaning of the social construction of childhood. The essay will provide overview of how the childhood have changed from history to present days. It will also include the family as a social constructed concept and how it change in families in United Kingdom.

The essay will discuss the factors of changing the lives from history back to present days. Will also include how this factors have been improved the live of children during this time.

At the end I will provide interventions connected to support vulnerable children. Also how inequalities can be reduce and can be turn to advantages and disadvantages background.

Definitions of childhood

Legal

In England a child is every one under age of 18. Child protection guidance says that even child at age 16 who:

- Live separated from the parents
- Work for the army
- Different type of education
- Or at this moment is at secure estate

However, even at this situations child is given the same entitlements as any other child in England. (NSPCC, 2022)

In Scotland the definition of a child is a bit different than the one that I mention for England. At this territory child is young person between age

of 16-18 need support and specially protection. The services will considered which is the best way of protecting especially involved is the circumstances that this young person (child) is at right now. (NSPCC, 2022)

Biological

Since birth of a child all mothers and not all fathers have the legal rights of this human. This is also known as 'parental responsibility'.

Responsibility such us:

- Home where this child to live and and grow up
- Protection
- Disciplining
- Provide education
- Medical treatments
- To give name and to agree this name to be changed
- Looking after the child (properties). (GOV.UK, 2022)

“Parents have to ensure that their child is supported financially, whether they have parental responsibility or not.” (GOV.UK, 2022)

However, there is parental responsibility for separated parents.

Even if the parents does not live together the rights of the other parent are still the same with the visiting the the time spent with this child.

However , the other parent with who the child live with should inform the other parent for every important decision that have been made for the child. On another hang when the situation is that the parents not live together , but parental responsibility is not on 100% decision made from the court. Some of the consent does not include the other parent.

However, if the child have to be taken out of the state the second parent should be informed and give his rights on paper. (GOV.UK, 2022)

“You must make sure your children are financially supported, whether you have parental responsibility or not.” (GOV.UK,2022)

Under the Children act in Scotland parental responsibilities is:

- Safeguard and children health
- Direction and guidance
- Personal direction to the child
- Act as legal perspective. (UK Deed pool, 2020)

In any part UK when child had born the mother automatically hold the parental responsibility for her child till age of 18 years old.

However, with the fathers its more complex thing.

The mother hold automatically the parental responsibilities.

Fathers only if:

- The parents where married
- For births registered after 4th May 2006, unmarried fathers on the child's birth certificate. (UK Deed pool, 2020)

Social Policy

Every organisation that work with children must have safeguarding policies. To make sure that every child no mate age, ethnicity , race ,gender , sex or sexual orientation.

Safeguarding policies

This policy and procedures are to protect the children from adults, and other children who put their health at risk. This include all different types

of community organisations, faith groups, private sector providers, as well as schools, hospitals and sports clubs. (NSPCC, 2022)

Safeguarding means:

- protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
- preventing harm to children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes. (NSPCC, 2022)

Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. Process that protect children from very serious harm. (NSPCC, 2022)

- The Children Act 1989
- Equality Act 2010
- Children and Families Act 2014
- The United Nations convention on the Rights of the Child 1992
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017
- The Education Act 2002 (Johnson, 2019)

Child protection responsible for:

England - Department of education

Northern Ireland - Department of Health

Wales - Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014

Scotland - Scottish Government (Johnson, 2019)

So far we compare 2 different territories with not far from each other guardians and protection for children.

Now I will compare UK to country far different. I will be focusing on child labor and child marriage.

The chosen country is Yemen where the childhood is very different to the one that we are use-to live.

Child labor in Yemen - 23% of the children between the age of 5 and 14 years old. Yemen is known with forced labor, there is more such as sexual exploitation to slavery. This children health fiscally and mentally drastically affected.

Child labor in UK - the modern slavery is sadly getting popular in UK. "Home Office in 2020 reveal that police recorded 7,779 modern slavery crimes in the UK in 2019. This was an increase with 59% from the year before." In this % is included the forced criminal acts. (Home Office (2020) reveal that police recorded 7,779 modern slavery crimes in the UK in 2019. This was an increase of a staggering 59% from the previous year. (Arif- Fear, 2021)

Child marriage Yemen - the child marriage is very popular at this part of the world, around 30% young females are married before the age of 18. In some villages the age is 12 -13 years old.

Pregnancy at age 15 is very hard and can be very dangerous.

However in Yemen the female are not choosing they are husbands. Ta this age they do not have any input and they can be forced to live with this abuse. (Humanium)

Child marriage in UK - “16 to 17-year-olds will no longer be able to marry or enter a civil partnership under any circumstances, including with parental or judicial consent from 26 February 2023. It will not be possible for anyone under 18 to marry or start a civil partnership after date. (GOV.UK, 2022)

However, we all know that in historical time thing where different. Yemen have not change much during all this years, but on the other had UK improving the quality of life all the time. From what you see above this paragraph is that the 2023 will start with new act that will help the young marriage and this children to be able to finish their education.

Key elements of family life

The experience and the need that the children need are dependant on their families. Family is responsible for the education and the health of the child.

Family Diversity - Key takeaways

- Organisational diversity - this is the structure of the family
- Age diversity - this the the generation differences
- Ethnic and cultural diversity - this is the mixture of marriages with different ethnicity and understandings
- Diversity in sexual orientation - 2005 in UK same sex can enter civil partnership , 2014 same sex can get marry, (Study Smarter, 2022)

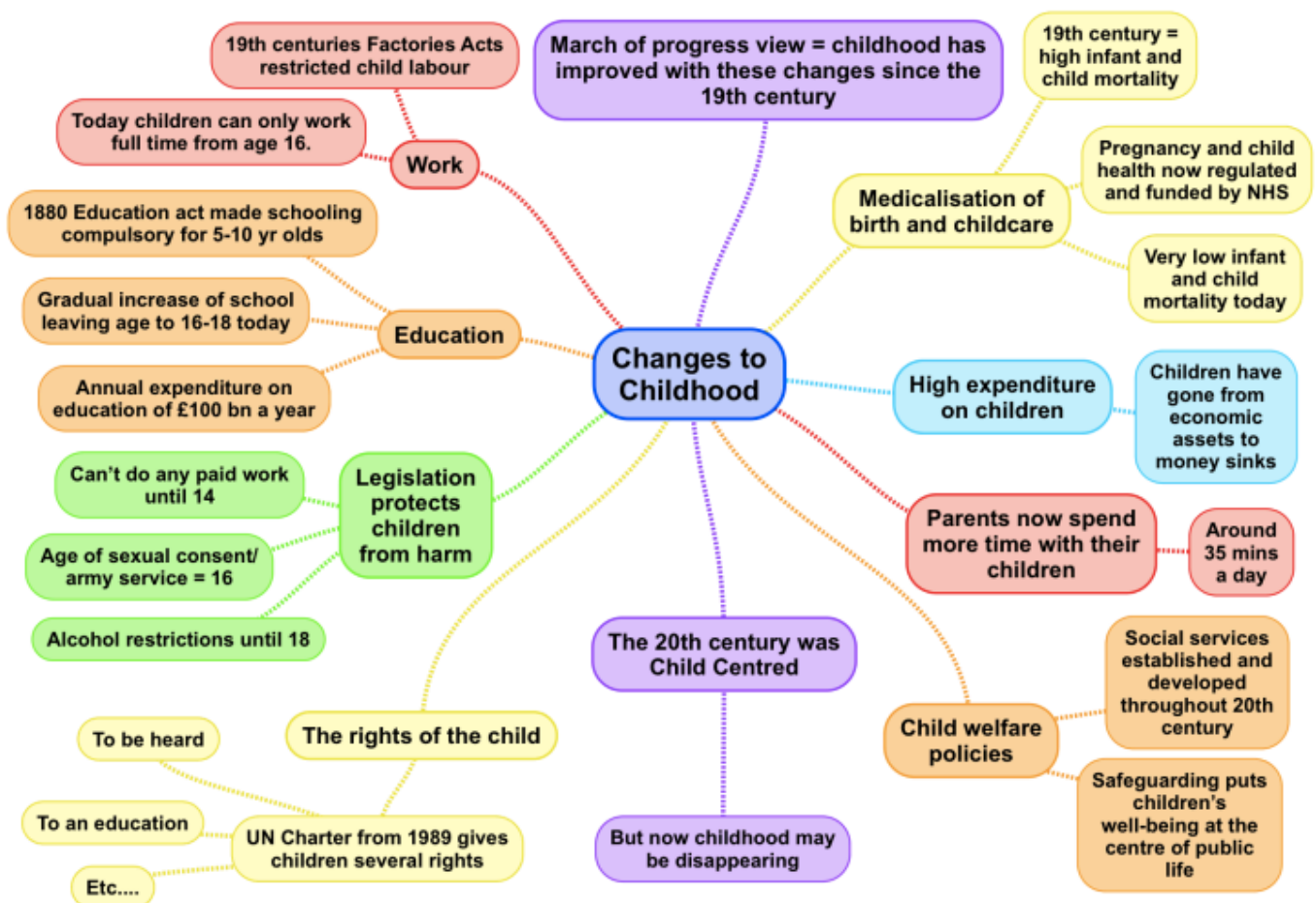
Examples of diversity family

- traditional family - mother, father and children;
- same sex couple
- single parents
- adopted children
- children in foster care

- other carers
- grandparents and godparents. (NSPCC,2022)

Children and their families from historical to present times

“We know a lot of all changes that the politics made to invest in the future citizens’ lives possible for the past 140 years. This changes and creation of legislation and organisations for children benefit and protection from abuse and neglect from the 1880s; state support , free school meals and medical members from the 1900s; also payment of family allowances (from 1975 child benefit) not the last free healthcare after the Second World War.” (University of Oxford,2022)



(ReviseSociology, 2020)

Factors which have contributed in changing the lives of children and reducing inequalities

London, experience very high level of wordlessness and child poverty. That lead as the the Londoner are having inequalities in the health areas.

Inequality refer a gap in the quality of health, in respect of life expectancy or the general state of health around the population.

According to NHS, the % in London of teenage pregnancy and physical activity is much higher than any other area in England.

However, the levels of the drugs, crimes are also higher in the capital than any where else around London. (Greater London Authority, 2011)

Health inequalities are predictable and include differences in health status. According to NHS, people cane be benefit with the screening pathway:

- “cohort identification (invitation)
- provision of information about screening
- access to screening services
- access to treatment and onward referral
- outcomes” (NHS, 2022)

Equality Act 2010 - the following are protected from this act made in 2010.

- age;
- disability;
- gender reassignment;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- pregnancy and maternity;

- race;
- religion or belief;
- sex;
- sexual orientation. (Legislation.gov.uk, 2010)

Education Act 1870

The 1870 Education Act is one of the first piece of legislation made to deal specifically with providing of education to the British nation. (UK Parliament, 2022)

The Factory Act 1833 - This act where made to protect children under age to work long hours shifts at fabric.no child workers under nine years of age

- “employers must have an age certificate for their child workers
- children of 9-13 years to work no more than nine hours a day
- children of 13-18 years to work no more than 12 hours a day
- children are not to work at night
- two hours schooling each day for children
- four factory inspectors appointed to enforce the law”

(TheNationalArchives)

Analyse a range of approaches and interventions

Early help also known as early intervention. This is help given to any family when the problems just arrived. The help can be provide for any stage of children life.

The UK prefer early intervention then wait till the situation grow to fomenting much bigger. Examples of institution of support: “(Department for Education (DfE), 2018; Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2017; Scottish Government, 2021; Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board, 2020).”

Early help

- home visiting programmes
- school-based programmes
- mentoring schemes.(NSPC,2021)

Conclusion

At the end of this essay will will summarise everything I mention earlier. Children are very sensitive creatures, since lang time ago, back to 19 century when the first act where made to protect the children right and make their life better place the act for education 1870. Since this time the equality of life have improved. We have free education available for every one. Free access to support if something is happening at the family. The research showed you that even at this yeas we are still having countries which does not support children at their life growing. The example where with Yemen. Since decades this country I still suffering with very poor life still of children.

During the time will have many more changes witch will provide better life for young children and families.

Suggestions

My suggestion will be very simple. The powerful countries in the world would look more of sporting others specially when children are involved. As we all know that this poor life stile to children is not only in Yemen. There are much more than just one country with this problems surrounding the young population.

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