

**EduInspire-An International E-Journal**

An International Peer Reviewed and Referred Journal

**Council for Teacher Education**

(CTE, Gujarat Chapter)

www.ctegujarat.org Email. jig\_har@yahoo.com

**Synthetic View of Challenges of Modern Life, Early Childhood and Indian Thought****Jigisha H. Panwala,**

Ph.D Scholar in Education,

Children's University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

**&****Dr. Nilesh S. Pandya,**

Assistant Professor,

Children's University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Email : Nileshpandya@gmail.com

**Abstract**

*Even in ancient times, life faced many challenges, but as a joint family, most people live in the countryside, the standard of living was very minimal, as was their motto of simple living and high thinking. Periodically modernization, urbanization, etc. made people's lives competitive. These changes affected the human life in many ways. Human relationships lost its intimacy and person became isolated. Family structure has changed drastically. The eternal values propelled in Indian thinking replaced with new emerged values. The main purpose of this study is to identify the challenges of modern life and examine the relationship between modern life challenges and early childhood. This relationship is further discussed and examined in the perspective of Indian thinking; whether Indian thinking is the solution for the betterment of day to day living in context of modern life challenges and early childhood? This paper is attempted to throw some light on these three dimensions of life.*

**Key Words: Modern Life, Early Childhood, Indian Thought**

## Synthetic View of Challenges of Modern Life, Early Childhood and Indian Thought

**Jigisha H. Panwala,**  
Ph.D Scholar in Education,  
Children's University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
&  
**Dr. Nilesh S. Pandya,**  
Assistant Professor,  
Children's University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
Email : nileshpandya@gmail.com

### INTRODUCTION

Children develop faster through their experiences in the world, from birth to age, than any other time of their life. These early years of development are crucial to providing a solid foundation for emotional, language and motor development as well as social, emotional, regulatory and moral development. Stimulation, nurturing, stable relationships with parents and other caregivers are key to children's healthy development, and the absence of these factors can disrupt children's development. There are many challenges of modern life such as modernization, technology, fragmented family, suicide, frustration, sending old people to old age home, lack of intimacy in relationships which has its roots in early childhood. In today's run-of-the-mill adventure, people face depression and children are left to trust others. So where does the ability to receive the rites in children remain? In Indian ideology too, a child should be raised with love, warmth in family and family members for up to 6 years. The Indian family system believes in joint family practice. Often childhood is instinctively spent in pampering and nurturing. In fact, a child's standardized upbringing gives birth to a perfect personality. So that he is able to meet all the developmental and conflicting needs of human life.

According to Sumitrabane Vaidya , baby is the greatest gift of creation. It is an excellent laboratory of a true teacher. He is the true heir of our lineage. At the cores of his mind are a number of psychological questions. His life is a big school of human life. There is fresh invisible power in his soul. He is the leader of the Renaissance. If the parents simply won't keep up and nurture the child, they will be deprived of important designs and good habits.

Thus, parents' study of childbirth is important. Explaining it, J. Krishnamurthy said, "To be concerned with our re-education is far more necessary than to worry about the future well being and security of the child."

### Objectives:

- (1) To identify the challenges of modern life.
- (2) Examine the relationship between the challenges of modern life and early childhood.

## EduInspire-An International E-Journal

(3) To examine the Indian thinking as a solution of challenges emerged in modern life and early childhood.

### **CHALLENGES OF MODERN LIFE:**

Globally each country has entered in new era. No one is now untouched with changed emerged due to new technological and industrial development. The country like India is also facing cultural and sociological conflicts. India is country with strong cultural and sociological values since ages. This value system is also changed adversely to some extent. Here are some important challenges which can affect person's life as a whole and early childhood specifically.

#### **(1) LACK OF INTIMACY IN RELATIONSHIPS:**

In ancient times, the parents' relationship with the child, the child's relationship with his family was very intimate. In today's time relations are beginning to crack. People today do not have the time due to family separation, modernization, the backdrop of people's economic activities. The parents have no time for their children, children have no time for the parents, and parents also don't have time for each other. So how do you feel about intimacy in relationships? Relationships have also been strained due to the situation that people are starting to move away from their family.

#### **Effect on Early Childhood Practices**

##### **Reasons:**

- The woman has also started going to job.
- People lack time for each other.
- Family separation or abolition of joint practice.
- Living apart from family for the job., & Modernization.

#### **Indian perspective**

According to Indian thinking, a child should be educated in the home for up to five years. The reason for this is that teaching the child at home establishes a close relationship with the child and the mother, and the family who provides intimacy and security to the child. These five years of the baby are very important and responsible years of the foundation of the good habits. If intimacy comes into the relationship during this period, he will become a good person and can establish intimacy in the relationships around him. The meaning of Dharma, Artha, Kama and Moksha has changed. Religion is not at the base but the meaning is at the base or center. That is why life has become meaningless. The goal of life is not salvation or liberation but economic prosperity. According to Chanakya'Slokas

## EduInspire-An International E-Journal

लालयेत् पंच वर्षाणि दश वर्षाणि ताडयेत्।

प्राप्ते षोडशे वर्षे पुत्रे मित्रवदाचरेत्॥

अर्थ- पाँच वर्ष की अवस्था तक पुत्र को लाड़ करना चाहिए, दस वर्ष की अवस्था तक (उसी की भलाई के लिए) उसे ताड़ना देना चाहिए और उसके सोलह वर्ष की अवस्था प्राप्त कर लेने पर उससे मित्रवत व्यवहार करना चाहिए.

Till the son is five years old one should pamper him. When he crosses five and becomes 15 years of age he should be spanked. In reality these ten years are when one needs to discipline him. However, when he turns 16, he should be treated like a friend. (Means he should feel that he is grown up and his opinion matters, which can happen when he is treated like a friend.)

Love your kids first five years. Discipline them next 10 years (5-15). As they reach 16, treat them like your friends.

### **(2) A PERSON FEELS LONELY AND HELPLESS:**

People are no longer present around another person. The mother also leaves the baby in this condition and goes out to work outside the house and the child spends the whole day with Mad or Aya. Childhood does not really meet the child's boundless love, warmth. He enjoys watching mobile and TV all day long, and even without these things, the child becomes lonely and depressed. Why do Indian elderly have to live in old age home? One study was conducted on 174 elderly people living in 14 different old age homes in northern India. Information on the factors responsible for settling down in old age was interviewed. The research concluded that son and daughter abuse (29.8%) was the most common. Globally, depression is a common mental disorder that is found in all age groups, including children and adolescents. Depression has always been significantly associated with children and adolescents. WHO estimates that one in four people in the world has been affected by a mental or neurological disorder at some point in their life. About 450 million people currently suffer from such a condition. The total number of people with depression globally was 300 million in 2015, an increase of 4.3% of the world's total population. Depression is ranked as the single largest contributor to global illness. Depression can lead to suicide, with 800,000 deaths due to suicide each year. Many children commit suicide nowadays. The National Mental Health Survey of India in 2015-16, states that about 1% of Indian adolescents suffer from one or more mental health problems and one in 20

## EduInspire-An International E-Journal

adolescents go through depression. Approximately one million people die of suicide each year and it is now among the three-leading cause of death in age group of 15-44 years.

### Effect on Early Childhood Practices

#### Reasons:

- Mother is going for job due to financial problems.
- Due to mobile and TV viewing habits, when these items are not available, they become lonely and helpless because technology does not develop social skills.
- Even parents do not allow children to face struggle. As a result, when they get less marks in Board examination or any other exams, they become sad. As a result, children go to extreme steps like attempting or committing suicide because they didn't have seen and faced the struggle.
- Old age is childhood. For today's generation, to take care of elderly is considered as a problem. The main problem of the elderly is to involve in quality time. At present, children do not have time for parents in the run-up to life.

#### Indian perspective

To earn money has become our mindset, due to which today the individual is experiencing loneliness, frustration, despair. Indian life believes in family system. The vision of India has always been of totality. Art, poetry, literature creation daily cleaning, making pottery, caring for a sick person, sewing clothes, etc. brings joy. In Indian life, father-son relationship considered to be relationship between king-subjects, master-servant or teacher-student relationship. Intimacy brings love and intimacy itself has the sense of oneness in various forms. Hometown is central in the Indian social system. The basis of a homestead is unity. To think of ourselves as all being one 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' is in Indian culture. So in ancient times, intimacy was found in all relationships. The idea here is not the subjective, but the supernatural. According to the Upanishads,

मातृपितृकृताभ्यासो गुणितामेति बालकः ।

न गर्भच्युतिमात्रेण पुत्रो भवति पण्डितः ॥

The child taught by mother and father becomes qualified.

The child doesn't become learned just by being born.

### (3) LACK OF CONTENTMENT IN A PERSON DESPITE MATERIAL PROSPERITY

At present, material prosperity has increased to such an extent that children cannot sleep without AC and without bike or car we cannot go anywhere by walking. Parents do not allow their child to face struggle. If parents cannot live without materialistic things, then how can a



## EduInspire-An International E-Journal

child live without it. Furthermore, human needs are unlimited. One need arises and immediately another arises. As a result, a person is blindly doing work to fulfill the needs. The result is a lack of satisfaction in the individual. The person is not satisfied with what he himself receives.

### Effect on Early Childhood Practices

#### Reasons:

- Person's needs are unlimited.
- The person has become more ambitious.
- A person cannot go without anything out of the house.

#### Indian perspective

Creation is the cosmos of God and human beings are the best expression of it. Shruti says that God created human beings as their own counterpart. It is not the Indian view that human beings are the best and rest of creation is made for their enjoyment. Generally spiritual life is associated with simplicity, poverty, penance, asceticism, etc. and there is opposition to materialism. The philosophical history of India has proved that spiritual life is the highest source of prosperity. In order to give spiritual life to the society, the YogaSutra preaches to follow the five sovereign Mahavrats of non-violence, truth, non-existence, celibacy and aparigraha. If the above values are followed, violence, rape, slavery may be eliminated. According to the Upanishads:

ईशा वास्यमिदं सर्वं यत्किञ्च जगत्यां जगत्।

तेन त्यक्तेन भुञ्जीथा मा गृधः कस्यस्विद्धनम् ॥

Īśā vāsyamidaṁ sarvaṁ yatkiñca jagatyāṁ jagat |

Tena tyaktena bhujñīthā mā gṛdhaḥ kasyasviddhanam ||

All this is for habitation by the Lord, whatsoever is individual universe of movement in the universal motion. By that renounced thou should enjoy; lust not after any man's possession.

#### (4) CHANGES IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE:

What is called a happy life today? The answer will be that happy life means nice bungalow, furnishings, all the amenities in the house, good amount of money. Here is the definition of a happy life. People are not satisfied these days because of this attitude. They complain that they didn't get sleep at night. They have money but they are not happy. They value quality of life in terms of materialistic things. Who does not know what is called a happy life?

Our definition of quality of life is: The degree to which a person fulfils his / her life possibilities resulting from the opportunities and limitations each person has in his / her life and the interaction of the personal and environmental factors.

**Quality of life as research University of Toronto.**

## EduInspire-An International E-Journal

The quality of life is defined as the amount of enjoyment of a person's potential in one's own life.

### Effect on Early Childhood Practices

#### Reasons:

- Due to modernization
- Physical happiness - due to prosperity
- Due to competitiveness

#### Indian perspective

There has been a radical change in the concept of quality of life and its quality. In Ancient time, quality of life in India meant self-identification / self-realization. Now, the meaning has changed to gain dominance over others, change in the attitude of working mother and not giving birth to a child, not taking care of a home being a good woman, elders living separately, lack of time for each other, change in routine, lack of rituals like Bhajan, Kirtan, Sadvanchan etc. India is recognized for its knowledge, brilliance, spirituality. India considers knowledge as sacred as the fire cleanses the object by scrutinizing all the substances contained in it and burning out all the impurities contained therein. In the same way, knowledge cleanses them by removing the filth of our thoughts, attitudes, tendencies, behaviors. But today two adjectives, Indian and non-Indian, are experimenting. The reason for this is on two things. First, the study of one of the Indian scriptures was now replaced by Westernization. Second, disobedience and disregard for our knowledge and our system were created. People who are modern, who believe in quality of life, do not know that a true and good quality of life is a person's self-satisfaction and enjoyment being in the family. In infancy, we bring the child what he needs. Moreover, in today's generation, the child has no tendency to share anything with anyone. As a result, the child does not know what it is to be abandoned. The child doesn't see any struggle in his/her life. According to Bhagvad Gita

सक्ताः कर्मण्यविद्वांसो यथा कुर्वन्ति भारत ।

कुर्याद्विद्वांस्तथा सक्त शिच कीर्षुर्लोक संग्रहम् ॥

Therefore, O India! Just as ignorant people indulge in karma, the learned people should perform the karma, preserving the opportunity to lead people astray.

#### (5) DECLINE IN VALUE IN LIFE PRACTICES:

Our society is caught up in the problems of secularism, provincialism, sectarianism etc. In society, mutual love, warmth, affection, sympathy, cooperation, tolerance, liberalism, self-esteem, devotion, conscience, humility and self-pride are hardly seen. Morning news should

## EduInspire-An International E-Journal

always be spontaneous, enthusiastic. Instead, we read in newspapers that eight-year-old girl is raped, millions of rupees bribe, lasciviousness, inflation, poverty etc. In such a desperate situation the basic values of man have been destroyed. There are numerous such incidents happening every day. As a result, we know that man is losing moral value today. If he does not have these values in himself, how can he teach his children and this is a serious consideration.

### Effect on Early Childhood Practices

#### Reasons:

- The atmosphere of the home is not sacred, calm and upbeat.
- Nowadays, home is becoming like house. The home is crumbling. Families are dispersing. As a result, the basic values found in the home, such as truth, love, hard work, cleanliness, vatsalya, etc., gradually are disappearing.
- There is no unity in the family.
- Schools, colleges, temples and sanctuaries - all these centers of faith have become centers of business.

#### Indian perspective

Indian thought believes in a united family. People wake up early in the morning and starts day with prayer. During childhood, a person learns good values. At that time character is created. Habits develop in childhood. At the same time, character building is done; personality is created. At the same state, many small things are expressed in a person's conduct by becoming an integral part of the psychological level. In the early stages of childhood, good habits and bad habits are created. As per theology in India, education of the sacraments, the education of the gentleman starts during pregnancy and infancy. Inevitably these all these good things happen at home. Even at an older age the education of the sacraments is required. The society becomes civilized and valued because of these cultured people. According to Bhagavad Gita,

यद्यदाचरति श्रेष्ठस्तत्तदेवेतरो जनः ।

स यत्प्रमाणं कुरुते लोकस्तदनुवर्तते ॥3.21॥

श्रेष्ठ पुरुष जो-जो आचरण करता है, अन्य पुरुष भी वैसा-वैसा ही आचरण करते हैं। वह जो कुछ प्रमाण कर देता है, समस्त मनुष्य-समुदाय उसी के अनुसार बरतने लग जाता है (यहाँ क्रिया में एकवचन है, परन्तु 'लोक' शब्द समुदायवाचक होने से भाषा में बहुवचन की क्रिया लिखी गई है।



## EduInspire-An International E-Journal

Whatever the superior man conducts, other men also behave in the same manner. Whatever he proves, the whole human community starts to behave accordingly (here the verb is singular, but the word 'folk' being communicative has written the plural verb in the language.)

### Conclusion:

We need to introspect and grab the good values of our ancient Indian culture. We need to be away from the rat race of modernization and westernization. Indian ways of living are important to inculcate good values in early childhood because today's child is tomorrow's future. Our Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita are the important sources through which not only we can teach good lessons of life to our children but also, we can learn.

### References :

- Akbar S., Tiwari S., Tripathi R., Kumar A., Pandav N. (2014): A study of the causes of old age, International Journal of Indian Psychology, volume - 2, issue - 1
- Katadare Indumatiben (2018), Indian Education: Concept and Form, Resurrection Publishing Service Trust, Ahmedabad.
- Dave Harshida H, (2016): Social Problems, University Library Board, Ahmedabad.
- Mehta Lalitbhai (2018): Indian Education Thought: Pravin Prakash Pvt. Rajkot  
Website: <http://www.gdre.org/vem/go/-define.html>
- Shial Mukesh Madhubhai (2018): Value Education, IJRAR-International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews, Volume - 5, issue 2  
Website : <http://sanskritslokas.com/gita-slokas2.html>  
Website : <http://sanskritslokas.com/chanakya-slokas5.html>

Paper Received	: 18 <sup>th</sup> May, 2018
Paper Reviewed	: 18 <sup>th</sup> May, 2018
Paper Published	: 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2018