

Training of Children

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Abstract: *children are the pure souls which are formed in a great extent by their parents training. So in Islam it is regarded as parent duty to train children in the way that they can be helpful to themselves and to their society. The present article deals with the meaning of growth and children's right of being educated and trained.*

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Training of children is due to different motivations and diverse, but the most important is breeding righteous children and also considering their rights which involve all moral and social virtues, in addition to the purity and sanctity of motivation. Some of the motivations are more highlighted based on the relation of child's happiness to parents'. Imam Ali in a letter to his son, Imam Mojtaba says: "verily I found you as a part of my own soul and maybe more. So that if something too. As the grief may suffer you it would perturb me, too."

Imam's interpretation about his son is definitely wonderful and deep because in most of the world's cultures and ideas, children are considered as a part of parents' life, but here, Imam Ali regards him as the body and soul of his existence. So son's happiness is just like father's happiness.

The dignity and importance of children breeding to so vital that Imam Sajjad, as a perfect father and mentor, asks God to help him nurturing his children: "O' my Lord, Help me in training, educating discipline and showing courtesy to my children."

The importance of training from the perspective of Ahl- Beit, made it essential to consider infallibles' viewpoints too.

Right of children from the Imams' Viewpoint

One of the basic and essential beliefs of parents is that children are God's gifts and parents as His trustees must consider children rights if they want to be successful in performing their duty against God. Regarding the mutual rights of fathers and their children, Imam Ali says: "Verily, the right of the child (for) the father is a truth and for father, there is a right for the children. The children are to obey their fathers in everything except sins, and the fathers are to name their children finely, train them properly and teach them Quran."

It is clear that meritorious training is of high importance because Imam Ali considers it as a part of children's right and even fathers' responsibility.

In the same way, Imam Sajjad also details the right of children in 24 different treatises declaring "The right of children is that: you know them as part of your existence, so their good and evil relates with you. You would be questioned about your responsibilities against him from different views like: good and proper training, leading to theology, and helping them to obey God's rules. You would lead them in two ways: your conduct and the guidelines you may advise them to. Verily, you would be blessed enough for putting yourself in trouble and also would be punished for shortcomings.

In your relationship with children, do your best, be a honorable protector and use your capabilities to improve his deficiencies.

And no one except God may help you!

Basic Cognitive Approaches for Parents

Some of the major approaches, each successful parent should know, are as follows:

A) Familiarity with the process of Childs' growth and development

Growth is a continuous process which passes through various stages. Childhood would slowly pass and the uproar and clamor of adolescence and puberty comes by, and then it is the maturity of youth. In every period, parents and coaches are faced by a new perspective of their children life.

Recognizing the characteristics of all growth periods, parents can adopt their children's behaviors with desirable patterns and standards known as code of conduct and distinguish the proper from improper. In addition, they can interpret behaviors of each stage and apply the correct approach towards it.

B) Familiarity with mental needs

From the very moment of birth, human being seeks other's assistance for continuing his world existence. This series of needs that have a specific diversity are known as "basic needs" or "secondary needs" or mental needs.

Basic needs include: need for safety (feeling of security), need for emotional interact, need for success (sense of usefulness), need for acceptance (acceptance of others), and need for self-flourish.

In the adolescence, new branch of needs like having a definite philosophy for life and also understanding the ethical values would be added to this collection.

C) Familiarity with children's Talents and Abilities

One of the essential duties of parents is the recognition of adolescence's capabilities which is recommended based on two requirements: first, guiding the abilities of children; secondly helping the children to achieve self-confidence. The later has a direct relationship with talents recognition because the child or adolescent who follows parental guidance would be more successful than peers and definitely more confident!

D) Familiarity with child's trends and tendencies

The link between human beings and their tendencies is so intense that may affect an important part of their thinking system and practice. Recognition of parents about their children would be complete if they have a big picture children interests. So parents should practice linking with children through recognizing their interests. Doing this, they can continue the relation and use it for strengthening and deepening the emotional ties with their children. One of the practical and scientific methods of recognizing child's tendencies is through having dialogue with them. As far as we try to talk with our children, we would have better look on their interests. Another way is interacting with the school officials.

Undoubtedly interacting with peers, teachers and coaches, children show the real emotions and interests. Therefore, communication between home and school- as two important educational centers- provides the opportunity to exchange the experiences. Regular communication and consultation with school teachers helps parents recognizing their children desires and promoting their.

From the above four categories, familiarity with the process of child growth that is discussed in this book, will be investigated in details.

A Reflection on the Meaning of Growth

Experts often define growth as qualitative and quantitative changes in nature and behaviors of living creatures which happen gradually. They believe that these changes will go on and on during the life and leads to abilities, needs, and difficulties that necessitates some special training.

Harold Stevenson believes that "Developmental psychology studies the changes in human behavior during his life. Although it is reasonably to focus on growth during the lifetime, there is no steps taken so far and all researches have been based on studying newborn, children, and adolescence characteristics. Therefore, the term "Developmental Psychology" is often used instead of an older term "children and adolescence psychology." This term (Developmental Psychology) implies all terms that lead to emergence of many other behavioral changes."

The Concept of Growth in education

If we can consider the relation between growth and psychology as the relation between "process" and "knowledge", then the relationship between growth and education would be regarded as link between two continuous and correlated phenomena. John Dewey conceives this concept as follows "we have found that life is nothing but the process of growth; human beings continue to live as long as they are alive but there are differences in the form. A healthy man - whether the baby or adult -

continues to growth during his life time, depending on the surrounding environment. So growth is not a monopoly of childhood. He adds: "if we limit growth to the childhood, it's necessary to believe that childhood is the prelude of maturity. Doing so, childhood loses its fundamental importance and we are obliged to teach maturity specifications to our children." Jean Jacque Russo also declares that "we should consider childhood as vital and don't act like instructors who" look at children as mature people". Education is compatible with childhood and even its different stages.... Every man has unique talents as well as every age has specific conditions."

After focusing on the importance of childhood- which is valuable by itself- Dewey says: "we must be careful to consider two essential things: that the education is nothing but the essence of life and that education is a variant process which continues during the human's life.

Parental knowledge of child Growth

Based on parental knowledge, although familiarity with growth mechanism is the first training step, there are other issues that should be considered:

1- Familiarity with child growth paves the way for have a better understanding of emotional and psychological needs and also improves the mutual interaction.

2- Mutual cognition and understanding of parents and children strengthen their friendship, provide a sincere environment and lead to peaceful coexistence between them.

3- The possibility of predicting the children's behavior increases if the parents understand the behavioral elements, including growth characteristics. Therefore, parents can gradually achieve a special ability to predict their children behavior and its time to happen.

4- Accessing to behavioral prediction power, parents can also provide other abilities, known as behavioral control. The family that can

easily control its child's behavior can also find a favorable situation for training.

5- Ability to control behavior leads to another ability that is the parents' understanding of How and the quality of behavioral change. Certainly many parents wish to change some behaviors in their children but not knowing the way, would degrade their position in the family.