



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND ITS INFLUENCE ON FUTURE EDUCATION

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Abstract

Early childhood education (ECE) is very important in the early years of a child's life (3-5) in terms of language proficiency, attention span, communication abilities, and problem-solving abilities. The main aim of the study was explore the early child hood education and its influence on future education. The population of this study was comprised of teachers working in Government Primary, elementary and High Schools of District Hafizabad. The sample of the study was one hundred and sixty two teachers of district Hafizabad. Questionnaire was used to collected the data. SPSS was used to analysis the data. Mean standard deviation was calculated to find the data. Children who attended early child education are better in reading, mathematics and speaking. Study also revealed that children who attended ECE classes are better to interact with teacher and also with other students. Early education improves the vocabulary, differentiating things, interaction, communication and many other healthy activities that helps child to perform better in future. Early childhood education provide the opportunity to a child for shining future.

Key words: Early Education, Future Education.

INTRODUCTION

Education plan gives a pathway to a society for destination where it wants to take its new generation in the light of its philosophy of life. A policy has a vital place in socio-economic background and moral framework of a country. The developed countries usually try to integrate their ideology in their educational system. In the case of Pakistan, Ideology of life was described by Islam, earlier than its came into existence. The country came into being on 14th August 1947 in response to the demands of the Muslims of the sub-continent who wanted to lead their lives according to principles of Islam. These principles are properly described in the Constituent Assembly adopted the 'Objectives Resolution' on March 12, 1949 which was made as part of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973 (Ministry of Federal Education Pakistan, 2017).

Education play very important role to prepare the nation particularly the young generation to achieve their goals. Education is the only key to led life according to principles of society and religion. Therefore, our Educational policies should emphasize on the good Education and suggest that how to achieve the goal and objectives in proper way (Ministry of Federal Education Pakistan, 2017).

Teacher used different techniques for teaching young children refers with early childhood education. Regarding the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the development of eight years children from their birth belong to their education. The education of early childhood starts from birth and covers all cognitive and effective skills among children of eight years old. ECE refers to a child's over all social, physical and mental development (Osakwe, 2009).

According to numerical analysis of data, in Pakistan, more than 27 million children are out of school, about 50% children of Punjab province are out of the school who have Pre-primary age (3-5 years). Similarly, the ratio of out of school students in Balochistan is 78%. Accordingly, in Sindh province the ratio is 61% and in KP 65%. Furthermore, literacy rate of Pakistan is 54% in which 66.25% are Male and 41.74% are Female (Childhood Education in Pakistan, 2019).

ECE has a positive impact on a child's educational, mental, behavioral, and social outcomes by the short term as well as long term, according to decades of research, particularly when the quality of early childhood education is higher (Melhuish, E., Ereky-Stevens, K., Petrogiannis, K., Ariescu, A., Penderi, E., Rentzou, K., Tawell, A., Slot, P., Broekhuizen, M., & Leseman, 2015).

First five to eight years of life are very prominent for a child. Teachers and parents can motivate the child towards positive aspects of life and development. Young children can develop themselves effectively as compared to other age of children (Ismail & Awan, 2019).

ECE is becoming increasingly popular and well-known around the world. All the societies around the world, early childhood education is commonly considered as a family responsibility. The teaching methods used by parents have a significant influence on children's learning and development (Myers, 2004).

Early cognitive development is critical for the development of reading, writing, and communication abilities in young children. Early childhood education is vital not only for cognitive development but also for language, interpersonal, and emotional development, especially in the first three years of life. (UNICEF) (Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Pakistan, 2020).

When someone build a building, it is very important for him/her to lay stone and good material in the foundations of the building to support the whole structure. In the same way before a child enters in primary school education, a similar foundation must be laid, Which shall be fixed with their family ,community, social and their cultural values and beliefs. A child from birth to eight year age need special attention for the physical, cognitive, emotional and social growth that will encourage him/her to survive and for development in future. The best education of a student depends upon the foundations laid during the early childhood education. The process of learning starts from the birth, child learn skills and develop in ways that are important for success in the future education. Early childhood education enable the student to walk and organize his/her movements. Child learn basic skills as thinking, ability to connect with society and believed to language to action. Early childhood education enable the student to recognize that in society what activities are culturally acceptable. Early childhood education develop the sense of curiosity (Ministry of Education (Curriculum Wing) Pakistan, 2002).

Education starts from birth of a child and till death it continues. The development of learning abilities of a child continue for whole life but not with such passion that is demonstrated in the early years of his/her age. It includes Katchi and Kindergarten (Federal Ministry of Education Nigeria, 2004).

Students who get ECE facilities express better performance than of those who cannot get it. Cognitive development studies tell that ECE gives good base or bedrock to the children (Magnuson, Waldfoegel, 2003).

ECE is essential for students and educationalists say that first three to eight years are the time in which foundations can be laid for future education. Kids make attempts to do the activities by themselves and get experience by starting new activities (Ramey, Campbell, Margaret Burchinal, Skinner & Gardner 2000).

Early childhood education (ECE) is very important in the early years of a child's life (3-5) in terms of language proficiency, attention span, communication abilities, and problem-solving abilities. Catching and throwing the ball, running, hopping, and climbing, among other activities, help to develop basic motor skills. Young students can develop their listening, speaking, and thinking skills by using different shapes and gadgets that are used in cutting, painting, drawing, and writing. The simple and interesting study of early childhood education polishes mental abilities (ECE). So early childhood education has positive impact on the future education in typical academic and developmental programs (Saeed, Ajmal. & Ghazi, 2018).

Smith (2003) claims that high-quality early childhood education classes have a significant impact on mental growth and future education. Children (3-8) learn best in planned activities, positive interaction and friendly relationships. Early childhood education should be planned carefully. The selection of the staff should be done sensibly, trained and skilled with most desired teacher ratio of children. Encourage young children to participate in early childhood education (ECE) programs which supports student's passion and liking in learning which prepare them for future education at primary level.

The Pakistani government is very concerned about the children's survival, protection, and development, as well as their education. The Pakistani government has launched a national action plan named "The National Plan of Action" (Government of Pakistan, 2003). The government has placed a strong emphasis on early childhood education in this plan. The main goal of this plan is to improve the attendance and retention of young children in school for early education, as well as to provide them with a basic education and opportunities for a successful future.

Pre-Schooling or Early Childhood Education is very effective on the future education of emerging generation. By researches it is proved that children who get early childhood education are more active, have cognitive abilities, reading & writing abilities rather than those who had not attend the early childhood education classes. Children who get early childhood education had high educational achievements and are able to maintain good academic performance over those who had not. Children who get ECE class have positive influence on the future education (Ramey et al. 2000).

Childhood Concept of Early Education (ECE)

Young students learn through interaction with their surroundings, peers, and adults. Process of learning is an energetic and innovative procedure in which students seek to make sense of their surroundings and the world around them. We must provide students the chance to participate in this procedure consciously and energetically, using all of their senses. By this children have an opportunity to learn in a better way. In variety of capabilities and actions, children are given the chance intentionally to improve and expand their knowledge, abilities, and attitudes. Physical, psychological, and social factors are all produced in an ECCE class room. The constructed environment, the immediate neighbourhood, the psychological and social environment, as well as the materials and equipment, all contribute to its formation. A fertile and flexible setting is conducive to learning, as it piques children's attention and

encourages them to try and act. As a result, it is immensely helpful for teachers to establish a stimulating, enjoyable, and long-term learning environment for their students (Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Pakistan, 2020).

Early Childhood Education is a vital stage in the growth of a person's personality. The growth that occurs during this time serves as a foundation and framework for the formation of child's personality (Sadu, 2004).

For the children early eight years of their life are considered critical for their physical, linguistic, cognitive, and emotional development. The basic foundation for the development of lifelong skills and subsequent learning is laid in early childhood education. A child's good health, nutritious environment, and the correct mental motivations provide a powerful sketch and roadmap for future growth in dealing with the issue. Early treatments, according to worldwide experience, provide a fantastic opportunity to avoid problems associated to future education. These issues could manifest themselves in the form of a decrease in elementary school dropout rates, as well as a decrease in secondary school dropout rates (Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Pakistan, 2017).

ECE (Early Childhood Education) is a broad term that refers to young children's early learning. ECE is a series of activities and experiences that has great influence on child's development before he/she attend primary school. Children not only grow in height and weight, but also develop and evolve in numerous aspects of their lives. They have earned the experience of mastering complicated understandings of people, items, and obstacles in their surroundings. With the exception of character and personality, all children follow a similar pattern and path to development. The quality of a child's development varies from one to the next. ECE refers to both the child's internal state and the type of care that he or she requires. It is critical to meet the basic needs for physical, spiritual, and moral protection, in addition to the basic requirements for relationship and excitement, respect, protection, and learning via exploration and discovery, for a child to develop and learn in a friendly and appropriate manner (Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training Pakistan, 2017).

ECE programmes around the world are often designed to support and encourage children's physical, cognitive, societal, and emotional growth, as well as to assist them in adjusting to their surroundings over time. All over the world, different programmes at the primary school level are typically formed to provide children basic knowledge, understanding and handling of skills in 3Rs (reading writing and arithmetic) (Piperopoulou, 2017).

ECE Influence on Future Education

The Effective Provision of Pre-School and Primary Education (EPPE) project found that the quality of ECEC programs influenced children's cognitive and social development over time. As a result of these findings, several policy changes were implemented, which were codified in the Childcare Act of 2006 (Melhuish, 2014).

According to educational specialists' studies and trials when an institution adopted instructional and educational activities are taken up for children a modest amount of their days, which is something that good preschool programs emphasized. Some of the benefits of early childhood education include the following:

- **Improvement in social skills:**

With the help of other children and adults, youngsters learn to keep themselves engaged in a more productive manner. Children are allowed to develop a variety of abilities in a preschool environment, including the ability to interact with people and communicate their own ideas, form friendships with classmates, share ideas, collaborate with others, and take responsibility for their actions (Childventures, 2017, April 03).

- **Better performance in grade school:**

Early childhood education provide chance to reduce the need of special education in upcoming years of student life. Preschool education provide a solid base for a child's physical, mental, emotional, and social development. So children got a chance to become ready for their future lives. (Childventures, 2017, April 03).

- **Improvement in attention spans:**

The natural curiosity and excitement that children have for discovering and seeking out new things is a natural phenomenon. High-quality early childhood programmes increase opportunities for children to gain new experiences, innovations, and ways of thinking while maintaining a healthy environment to enhance the listening ability. The children have an opportunity to work in groups and do group activities, educational work independently. (Childventures, 2017, April 03).

- **Enthusiasm for lifelong learning:**

All the children who received early childhood education are said to be more self-assured and curious. It is very helpful in getting good grades. By through this all the children learn how to deal with problems and issues, as well as how to be flexible in the face of adversity. It is very helpful for them to adjust in school environment and take necessary benefits of education as well as learning more in batter way. (Childventures, 2017, April 03).

Furthermore, studies and experiments have shown that early childhood education as well as preschool programmers increases the likelihood among children. Those who are graduating in high schools have some behavioral issues as attending college and becoming responsible young adults (Childventures, 2017, April 03).

According to research, early childhood is a time because the developmental changes occur among themselves that can have long-term consequences for children's futures. The importance and complexities of working with young children from infancy through primary school are highlighted in this new trend. When young children have secure, positive interactions with adults who understand how to help Youngers to develop and learn, they thrive. (Chukwbikem, 2013;).

The primary goal of Early Childhood Education's (ECE) is beneficial in providing leadership, self-support in all educational institutions, instructors, families, and communities. It can also develop different programmes that will enable children from birth to eight year age to become successful lifelong learners. There is no doubt that this part of education is the center of all educational activities. The ease with which a student can progress through early childhood education stages is determined by their level of access. To ensure the quality education trainings and other educational programmes is essential for their development in all aspects of life (Chukwbikem, 2013).

Preschool education aims to learn about and support children's mental, physical, emotional, linguistic, and social development. This type of education has been given various names by psychologists, educators, and policymakers, including nursery, kindergarten, and pre-primary education. Children get Pre-school education before getting admission in educational institutions. It is planned to help children in improving their social, expressive, educational, verbal, and learning skills, as well as their overall health and well-being (Ali & Bibi, 2012).

Early childhood experts believe that participating in a high-quality preschool programme promotes children's societal and emotional development and prepares them for kindergarten (nursery) and future. Many research findings and studies show that students who take part in early childhood education programmes have a better chance of achieving high test scores and grades in future education (Ali & Bibi, 2012).

At this age, children learn and retain information quickly, and they are impressed by new findings. It is acknowledged that the most essential period of learning begins at birth. A child's brain creates prints, sketches, and symbols that will last throughout his life at this age. The environment has a major impact on a young child's ability to grasp ideas and develop emotional skills. According to extensive research, high-quality preschool education for the children especially those who struggle in school has long term benefits (Ali & Bibi, 2012).

Early childhood education (Preschool and kindergarten) students have more flexible action patterns. At this stage of life, different activities help children to develop their cognitive power. Children who are studying in preschool, grade one or two can engage in a variety of play activities to help them to develop their cognitive skills. It includes object play, pretend play, social play, and locomotors play. The construction of objects with blocks demonstrates object play. For pretend play, teachers serve as role models. The use of various objects exemplifies social play. Children running after each other exemplify locomotors play. In addition to these, hands-on activities are essential for the development of advanced thinking and cognition. Concrete visual aids must be used with preschool and kindergarten students in order to help them learn. In a nutshell, to facilitate the process of cognitive change, inside and outside of the classroom. A large numbers of activities are performed by children and their experience related to education (Mehmood, 2016).

Objectives of study

The main objectives of the study were to:

1. explore the awareness to parents and society about ECE and its influence in future education.
2. improve early young adulthood education and its quality to get better results in future education.
3. find the basic information about early child education to parents that may develop more interest for education.
4. find out the difference among teachers ECE and its influence in future education on the bases of gender.
5. find out the difference among teachers ECE and its influence in future education on the bases of qualification.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The nature of the study was descriptive. In order to examine influence of early childhood on future education of 3 to 8 years students, survey was used to conduct this study.

Population:

The population of this study was comprised of one hundred and sixty two male and female teachers working in Government Primary, elementary and High Schools of District Hafizabad (Tehsile Pindi Bhattian and Tehsile Hafizabad)

Sample and Sampling Technique:

There were 733 Schools in district Hafizabad. Census survey based on quantitative research approach was used for acquiring data from all members of a population working in government primary, elementary and high schools of District Hafizabad. For this study, survey method was adopted to describe beliefs and attitude, opinions of the people by through questioning from a representative sample at particular time (Creswell, 2011; Best & Khan, 1999).

Research Instruments:

Self-developed instrument five point Likert scale was used for the purpose of data collection. The researcher studied different books, articles and official reports for developing questionnaire. The instrument was consisted of 25 statements related early childhood education and its influence on future education of three to eight years students education. The instrument explored teacher's opinion about early childhood education importance and its influence on student's future education. Researcher collected data by visiting the schools and teachers personally.

Data Collection:

The data was collected by the permission of the concerned authorities of education department. Data was collected by visiting the schools and meeting with the early childhood teachers and taking their views related to study through questionnaire.

Data Analysis:

Data was analysed by using SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) version 21. Descriptive and inferential statistics was used to analyses. In inferential statistics, Independence samples t-test was used to find out the significance difference among demographic variable male and female. One Way ANOVA was applied to check the difference among demographic variable like as qualification.

Results

Table 1

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	104	64.2
Female	58	35.8
Total	162	100.0

This table indicate the gender of the selected teachers. It shows that there were 104 male and 58 female teachers from public primary, elementary and high schools. The total sample was comprised of 162 ECE teachers.

Table 3

Item mean and standard deviation of Early Childhood Education and its influence on Future Education

Sr.No	Statements	SDA	DA	UN	A	SA	M	SD
1	Early young adulthood education is necessary for youngers.	0	0	2	46	114	1.31	.498
2	ECE prepares students better.	4	7	18	62	71	1.83	.960
3	ECE influence student's future education.	4	0	14	79	65	1.76	.810
4	ECE creates good learning atmosphere for students in high classes.	1	5	9	86	61	1.76	.746
5	Good teaching approach prepare students for better future.	0	4	8	48	102	1.47	.706
Total		9	16	51	321	413		

“Early young adulthood education is necessary for Youngers”. Mostly respondents was strongly agreed. High Mean score and standard deviation score of this statement was (M=1.31, SD=.498).

“ECE prepares students better”. Majority of respondents strongly agreed. Mean score and standard deviation score of this statement was (Mean =1.83, SD =.960). “ECE influence student's future education”. Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =1.76, SD =.810), “ECE creates good learning atmosphere for students in high classes.” Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =1.76, SD =.746). “Good teaching approach prepare students for better future.” Majority of respondents strongly agreed. High Mean score and standard deviation score of this statement was (Mean =1.47, SD =.706).

Table 4

Item mean and standard deviation of Early Childhood Education and its influence on Future Education

Sr.No	statements	SDA	DA	UN	A	SA	M	SD
6	ECE helps student in understanding learning dynamics.	4	7	20	96	35	2.07	.857
7	Use of Av aids helps children learn better.	2	3	4	51	102	1.47	.749
8	Children who attended early education, behave positively in the society.	10	9	37	59	47	2.23	1.118
9	Skilled and trained teachers play important role for the development of child.	3	4	11	36	108	1.51	.872
10	ECE also helps in curriculum coverage.	3	13	39	64	43	2.19	.981

Item mean and standard deviation of Early Childhood Education and its influence on Future Education

Sr.No	statements	SDA	DA	UN	A	SA	M	SD
16	Students who attended ECE are fluent in recognizing numbers.	9	14	23	68	48	2.19	1.121
17	Students who attend early classes behave much well than who had not.	6	10	27	78	41	2.15	.992
18	Students who attended ECE are already exposed to writing.	4	17	45	65	31	2.37	.990
19	Students who attended ECE are already exposed to reading.	3	12	44	57	46	2.19	.994
20	Poverty does not affect ECE.	19	49	43	29	22	3.09	1.223
Total		41	102	182	297	188		

“Students who attended ECE are fluent in recognizing numbers.” Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =2.19, SD =1.121). “Students who attend early classes behave much well than who had not.” Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =2.15, SD =.992). “Students who attended ECE are already exposed to writing.” Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =2.37, SD =.990). “Students who attended ECE are already exposed to reading.” Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =2.19, SD =.994). “Poverty does not affect ECE.” Majority of the respondents disagree with (Mean =3.09, SD =1.223).

Table 7

Item mean and standard deviation of Early Childhood Education and its influence on Future Education

Sr.No	statements	SDA	DA	UN	A	SA	M	SD
21	Ignorance of parents is a big factor for not providing children early education.	7	23	31	62	39	2.36	1.124
22	Rural areas are considered more focused areas for ECE.	21	22	35	51	33	2.67	1.299
23	Awareness of parents about importance of ECE is necessary.	0	0	10	56	96	1.47	.612
24	Government is taking steps to provide early education to disadvantaged students.	10	35	25	75	17	2.67	1.115
25	Good preparation in ECE facilitate student for primary education.	8	5	16	79	54	1.98	1.003
Total		46	85	117	323	239		

“Ignorance of parents is a big factor for not providing children early education.” Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =2.36, SD =1.124). “Rural areas are considered more focused areas for ECE.” Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =2.67, SD =1.299). “Awareness of parents about importance of ECE is necessary.” Majority of the respondents strongly agree with (Mean =1.47, SD =.612). “Government is taking steps to provide early

education to disadvantaged students.” Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =2.67, SD =1.115). “Good preparation in ECE facilitate student for primary education.” Majority of the respondents agree with (Mean =1.98, SD =1.003).

Table 8

Independent Sample t Test Identifies the Difference Among Male And Female Regarding Early Childhood Education and its influence on Future Education

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t-value	df.	Sig.
Male	104	54.4712	8.12279	.113	160	.910
Female	58	54.3103	9.57923			

Table 8 shows that to find out the difference male and female teachers regarding early childhood education and its influence on future education. an independent samples t-test was applied. The Results showed that there was no significant difference between male (M = 54.4712, SD = 8.12279) and female teachers M = 54.3103, SD = 9.57923, $t(.113) = 160$ at $p = .910$, regarding early childhood education and its influence on future education. According to results both males and females teachers had same views about early childhood education and its influence on future education.

Discussion:

The purpose of this study was to determine the importance of early young adulthood education and what influence does it has on the future education of the child in District Hafizabad. Early young adulthood education has a constructive impact on the education of child and plays an important role for the future. Children play well in further classes when they come from well qualified education system. Researches have approved that students who have gain early childhood education show good academic performance as compare to those students who have not gained early childhood education. Students who have the knowledge of ECE take more interest in studies. ECE trained students are more liable and complete their assignments in given time. Most of the trained ECE students understand the learning material easily and quickly. ECE trained students are more confident and active. The finding of Ali & Bibi (2012) on the importance of ECE were accordance to this study.

It has been concluded through this research that early childhood education has great impact and influence on the performance of students in reading, writing and spoken, recognizing the words and numbers. The contents of knowledge which are exposed in the early age are bedrock to later education and for future life. Osakwe (2009) had reported similar findings accordance to this study.

Poverty is most effecting factor in the early child education. To provide basic education to disadvantaged children the government is playing important role and providing special ECE classrooms in government schools so that poor families can also provide their children the facility of early education. Through different studies it was determined that early childhood education play very important role in the life of student. All authorities should focus on the ECE to make it effective (Ahmad.M, 2011).

The study concluded and the previous researches Bakken, Brown & Downing (2017) shows that early interference in minds of children, bodies, and emotions. It has long-term benefits. The early childhood education programme for young children, which emphasises social and academic skills, appears to have long-term benefits. Those children who have got early

childhood education were academically, socially, and emotionally successful in school. Children who received high-quality early learning improved their academic performance.

According to this study the main purpose of early childhood education programme is to support the schools and families to help all student from birth to age eight years to become successful lifelong learners. It is acknowledged that early childhood education is the base upon which all levels of education are given in a better way. The research of Chukwbikem (2013) has the same findings in line with the study.

The study concluded that Students who got the early childhood education show good performance as compared to those students who cannot achieve the early childhood education. The finding is in line with Ghazi et al. (2018) that early childhood education give excellent start to the students. Effective early education can improve the cognitive skills of the students so that they can perform much better in the high classes. Children become able to identify the basic objects, can read and write numbers, they become able to read and write alphabets, increase the skills of writing and pronunciation. During research it was came to know that children who attend early child education can communicate better than those who cannot achieve the facilities of ECE. Children interaction with teachers and other students in much positive and friendly. Students who are ECE qualified are better developed in personality and performance. They are well groomed and developed.

The research come to point that children whose parents are not much educated are unable to identify the importance of ECE. They do not prefer the early education of child and only focus on high class education which affects student's basics about early education. These students cannot perform better and are not smart enough than those who are ECE qualified. Awareness of parents about importance of ECE can help schools and government to increase the numbers of students who attend early education. The finding is in line with Abouchaar & Desforges (2003) by through parental involvement in working class students achievement if we apply all that known about parental involvement

Recommendations

In order to increase the trend of ECE and meet the challenges, the following recommendations may be considered.

- A proper education campaign on the importance of early childhood development should be launched that early childhood education is important.
- According to the study, parents should be made aware of the obligation to enroll their children in ECE before enrolling them in formal primary school education in order for students to perform better.
- Parents should participate in their children's early education by supplying the required materials and equipment for the program's success.
- Early childhood education should be considered as a significant investment that benefits society as a whole on a daily basis.
- The government should boost early childhood education by establishing early childhood educational facilities (classrooms, learning centers, etc.).

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