

Importance of School in Overall Development of Child and Constitutional Provisions Relating to Child's Primary Education

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Abstract

Learning for child begins as soon as the baby is born in the family. It is believed that mother is the first teacher of every child. A child starts learning many things from his family and surroundings. Child also learns many things through observation of everyday life and comes to know how to behave in the society. The family is responsible for shaping a child and influencing their behaviour in the society. Though a child learns many things from his family but he/she needs to know lot many things to develop himself/herself, which can be learnt from school only. Earlier, school meant just learning the events given in the textbooks or solving tough problems of mathematics or reciting poems etc. But nowadays, this scenario has been changed; school has become the first stepping stone in the life of a child, wherein he/she learns a lot more than just basic learning. School is the place where child develops different hobbies, refines them, learns basic etiquettes, gets skilled at multi tasking, and develops social skills. Researcher has used doctrinal method to collect the data. This research paper objects to explain the importance of school in the overall development of school going child.

Keywords –

Academic Potential, Character Building, Cognitive Development, Importance of school, (Badve, 05-2021) Physical development, Social Development

Introduction

Even though learning of a child starts with the family at home itself this is not sufficient for his overall development. There are many things which a child needs to know for his physical and mental development, which he can learn from formal school education. It is generally accepted that the learning process helps in shaping one's personality and the way he or she deals with different situations of life.

The schools are considered to be the most moral and ethical agents of change which develops the future of this nation. They build the character out of children's which they expect to work in the interest of the nation. But to make it happen schools must focus on the holistic development of these school children.

At school, a child gets a chance to meet new children of their age. On the other hand, if a child stays at home all day long, he/she will possibly not be able to meet many such people of their age. Meeting new people and socializing also broadens the parameters of knowledge. Thus, if you want to live a good social life, it is important to attend school. School is the basic institution of knowledge being imparted to a child. It gives a chance to children to gain knowledge on different fields of education. The cognitive, social and emotional development of a child takes place in early years of life. Therefore, it is very important for the parents to take every step necessary to make sure that children raise in environments where their educational, social and emotional needs are met.

It is well known fact that today's children are future of tomorrow. So that it becomes responsibility of each and every parent to develop their child in such a way that they take their nation towards great success. Education has become a basic necessity for all human beings after food, clothes and shelter in the present competitive world.

School is the institution wherein the child gets to learn so many different subjects like History, Mathematics, Geography, Science, different languages, physical education and value education etc. There are various aspects in which schools help in development of child like mental aspect, social aspect, physical aspect etc. Moreover school is the place wherein parents put in their child so that they can learn new things which they cannot learn by staying at home.

When the child first time goes to the lower primary school he, starts identifying letters, numbers, colours, pictures of various things, places and become aware of the sounds that make up words that is an important skills for reading which is known as phonemic awareness. He learns how to write, how to read and so many things. Best part of these preschool is that child learns through playing. They sing rhymes, they dance and celebrate various festivals through which they also come to know about our culture and values. Child gain skills that eventually help them learn to read, write, build their math and science skills, and become successful students.

Then at the upper primary level school, the child who is at the age of 6 to 10 starts learning different subjects and gains knowledge which helps him in building his base for higher class. School helps in developing the thought process of children. School gives an opportunity to the child to become socialized.

The school should not just be restricted with academics but it should also take responsibility for moral, spiritual, mental, physical as well as cultural development of the children. Following are the ways in which school can help in the development of the child.

Academic Potential

What is Academic Potential?

In very simple terms, it is the highest level that could be achieved if a student utilised all of their ability. In other words, it is the brain's capacity to achieve, also known as cognitive ability. It is the capacity to reason and apply rules i.e to use logical, rational, and analytic thought. This is probably more commonly known as intelligence.

It is expectation by the every school and parents from child that to score good marks and pass with flying colours. But the academic performance is not just about learning chapters and facts; it helps to develop problem solving skills in the student. The teacher encourages the child to think of various solution of a single problem.

Character Building

Among other things it is the duty of schools to give attention on building the character of the child. Child learns how to behave with teachers; fellow students, how to interact with staff and their friends etc. and also learns some basic etiquettes. All these things help in building the character of a child.

Cognitive Development

Cognitive development means how children think, explore and figure out things. It is the development of skills, knowledge, problem solving and dispositions, which help children to think about and understand the world around them. Brain development is part of cognitive development. The school is the institution wherein child is learning to read and write. So the school helps in cognitive development of child in many ways like, they begin to reason and argue, can perform simple addition and subtraction, develop their language skill etc.

Social Development

School is the place where a child learns how to get socialize and interact with the people. Different activities like debate competition, elocution competition, skits etc. are organized by the school which gives opportunity and encourages a child to speak confidently. Socialization and understanding of social life plays an important role in providing a good future and healthy environment to the child.

Physical Development

Along with other developments physical development of a school going child is also very important. Even though much focus is not given to the physical development by the schools, it is important for the students to keep themselves healthy. Schools are giving physical education by conducting P. T. Periods, various sports activities to help child to develop physically. Physical activities helps child to be fit and healthy as well as it helps to develop stamina.

Constitutional provisions for free and compulsory education

The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, which represents the consequential legislation envisaged under Article 21-A, means that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.

Education is one of the most important functions of the State. The State has a basic responsibility in regard thereto. Earl Warren, CJ, speaking for the US Supreme Court emphasized the right to education while stating: "today, education is the most important function of the State and local Governments. It is required in the performance of our most basic responsibility, even services in the armed forces. It is the very foundation of good citizenship. Today it is the principle instrument in awakening the child to cultural values, in preparing him for later professional training, and in helping him to adjust normally to his environment. In these days it is doubtful and child may reasonably be expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education."

The Right to Education Act 2009, also known as the RTE Act 2009, was enacted by the Parliament of India on 4 August 2009. It describes modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children aged between 6-14 years in India under Article 21 (A) of the Constitution of India. This act came into effect on 1 April 2010 and made India one of the 135 countries to have made education a fundamental right for every child.

It is mandated in the Right to Education Act 2009 that an out of school child should be admitted to appropriate class according to his age and special training should be provided with to enable the child to come up to age appropriate learning level.

The Right to Education Act 2009 prohibits all kinds of physical punishment and mental harassment, discrimination based on gender, caste, class and religion, screening procedures for admission of children capitation fee, private tuition centres, and functioning of unrecognised schools. It is also provided in the Right to Education Act 2009 that development of curriculum should be done, which would ensure the all-round development of every child, build a child's knowledge, human potential and talent.

Conclusion

Every child is a future of a nation. So it is important for the better future of nation that every child must be holistically developed. Family is the first school of a child but he needs formal education for his overall development, which is possible only by admitting children to schools. School is the place where child learns many basic things like reading and writing. Schools bring out holistic development of children. A holistic development includes the physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and creative development of a child. Moreover it is fundamental right of every child between the age group of 6-14 to get education, which is provided by the Constitution of India in Article 21A as well as the Right to Education Act 2009, also ensures the all-round development of every child. So the school is the institution which plays a very big and important role in building the future of every child.

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