



# CHILDREN LITERATURE AND ITS ROLE IN FOUNDATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF A CHILD

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**Abstract:** The Article is in regards to the relation between children literature and the foundational development of a child. The childhood is the tenderest and crucial stage of a human development and children literature can play a very intrinsic role in this stage. The article basically focuses on the importance and role played by child literature in the cognitive and analytical development of a child psychology. Also it discusses about the various aspects in which children literature can play a proficient role in the development of child psychology.

## 1. Introduction

Childhood, the most tender and versatile stage of the development of human mind, is a crucial stage in the experiential learning & cognitive development of the stages of human development. Children literature encompasses all books, poems, magazines and songs made for children. Children literature plays a crucial role in the foundational development of the childhood stage of a human life cycle.

Children's literature is an extremely important tool or rather an influential driver for the foundational development of a child's language and acquisition as well as an encouraging medium for the generation of a child's actively engaged imagination. (S.M.Audsley, 2019) Reading is the best source of information in the course of information development and children's literature with commendable quality could play an essential role in the development of the practice of reading in the foundational stages of a child's mind. Moreover, Children's literature play a very important role in delivery of moral values and wisdom to the child with a lucrative display of pictorial representation and exciting storyline that is highly adaptive to the understanding at a foundational level and lays a sustainable imprint in a child's mind for the constructive development of one's mind. There are six stages of language development in the human life cycle in which the most rapid phase is between birth to 5 years of age. Children literature can provide an enhanced effect in this learning process improving the acquisition of language and understanding. The article basically focuses on the importance of Children Literature in the foundational development of child and also the ways in which it could cater to the idea behind a few of the sustainable development goals.

## 2. Concept of Tabula Rasa

Tabula Rasa refers to a "scraped tablet" in Latin which means a "clean slate". It is a theory that says that at birth the human mind has no attributes and all mental attributes are developed with experience and nurturing. In reference to this theory, the children literature plays a very crucial role in the cognitive and foundational development of a human mind. Children literature can develop the senses of identification of the environment around the child.

Children's literature, through its scientifically designed contents and methods of pictorial display of storylines with a message on moral and social rationality, can leave an imprint in a child's developing mind which can instigate a rational and constructive thought process for the child. The learning of a child from children literature can be the best and the most lasting imprint in a child's mind and has the power to develop a sustainable and productive thought process which helps the child to develop an easily adaptable learning process in the later stages of life.

## 3. Importance of Children Literature in Child Development

The development of a child's foundational understanding and acquisition of language, speech has several stages and it is very essential for the guardians to attend to these stages accordingly to generate the adequate growth and learning of the child's minds. There are six stages of language development in a human life cycle and children literature plays an intrinsic role in the development of attributes in all these stages of a child's development.

As an example, we can refer to the Swedish author and psychologist Carl-Johan Forssén Ehrlin. It is a well known fact that a child's sleep cycle plays a crucial role in the process of development and growth of the child. The author recognises this fact and writes a book which goes by the name *The Rabbit Who Wants to Fall Asleep*. In this book, the author employs "psychological techniques which aims at helping a child fall asleep while reading or when this book is read aloud to the child. In this way child literature structured scientifically with set goals can deeply affect several such attributes in the developmental stage of a child.

#### 4. Children literature as a medium of issue resolution

Children literature is a medium to deliver moral and life values to the child through stories and poems carrying a moral message. At the initial development stages, a child is exposed to several moral and ethical enigmas which require immediate and correct attention so as to structure the constructive development of their tender mindsets.

Effectively designed children literature can instigate the sense of understanding of right and wrong, tackle the mindsets towards resolution of social issues like bullying, discrimination and so on. It is very imperative to develop a rational thinking towards social issues in the early childhood stages to develop a constructive mindset for the child and children literature can very productively deliver that role. Portraying lucrative storyline from a child's perspective and picturing the same pictorially and through simple language makes it readily adaptable to a child's understanding, delivering the moral message resolving the air of social issues instigating the development of a rational thinking and analysing pattern in the course of development of a child's psychology.

#### 5. Children literature as a guidance towards social well being

The idea of empathy, equity, diversity and inclusion should be developed in a child starting from its foundational stages of development. Children literature plays a very intriguing role in this aspect. Children literature is a source which provides the real scenarios to the tender mind of a child through readily adaptable and exciting mode of delivery reflecting pictorial representation of the story and simple languages.

The idea of race, equity, diversity and inclusion amidst differences are some of the very important social aspects that need to be triggered in a child's mind in its initial developmental stages.

As for instance we can take the example of D. Jillian Roberts, a renowned and proficient child & adolescent psychologist based out of British Columbia, Canada. She mentions that by developing the feeling of empathy a child can learn how it feels to be in someone else's shoes and in a competitive and never halting world on the present times, children should learn how to attend to someone else's feelings and thoughts as it is the key to social and emotional development. This can be understood from the quote by the psychologist herself mentioned below

*"Developing empathy allows children to put themselves in another's place and to better understand their experience. In today's busy world, it's important that children learn how to be deeply present to others' thoughts and feelings. Empathy is the key to social and emotional development [...]."*

(S.M.Audsley, 2019)

#### 6. Children literature in line with Sustainable Development Goals

The sustainable development goals are a set of 17 Development goals which are designed for the attainment of a better and sustainable future for every inclusive person on earth. This set of goals also include a goal for quality education i.e. SDG 4 and gender equality i.e. SDG 5.

As discussed earlier, children literature plays a very important role in issue resolution and development of a rational social thought process. This thought process further enhances a child's learning capability and adaptability that triggers their attraction towards knowledge gaining process and also helps them develop their social emotional understanding towards the virtues of equity, diversity, inclusion & empathy. These traits are the very basic and necessary pre-requisites for the steps towards attainment of the SDG 4 & SDG 5.

From this we can somehow relate that children literature not only instigates a rational thought process in a child in its foundational stages but in this course of development also prepares the child to contribute to the attainment of internationally set goals for inclusive growth and sustainability which is a very intrinsic characteristic and role of children literature in the development of a child's psychology and behavioural attributes.

#### 7. Conclusion

Children Literature is a very vast field of study that requires a very micro understanding a child psychology and behavioural patterns. Childhood is the most tender and crucial stage in the development timeline of a human life. It is a very impactful stage in which the learning inculcated is marks a deep imprint in the child's psychology for the later part of life. Children literature can be a very proficient medium for constructive development of the cognitive and analytical mindset of a child also keeping in mind, the development of a rational thought process towards the social stratification and issue resolution which in turn builds a healthy mindset of a child for survival in the busy world prevailing in the present times.

Children literature not only plays a role in the constructive development of a child's mind but also prepares him to readily adapt and contribute towards the inclusive development of the habitat that it lives in. It develops an analytical and reasoning approach in a child towards the aspects of equity, diversity and inclusiveness which are very important traits that are very necessary to be developed for the inclusive and constructive growth of the emerging society. Hence, children literature is not only a medium of imparting moral values and learning to a child but is also a medium for the foundational development of a rational and empathetically justifiable psychology of a tender child's mind.

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