



Impact of urbanization and Economic change on child development A review

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Abstract

There are three relevant aspects of a setting: the space and contents of the space, as in the set of a play; the cast of characters who are present on the set; and the activities which occur on the set involving the cast of characters. Our findings indicate that the characteristics of the setting evoke and reinforce habits of social interaction which become the core of a child's behavioural profile. In sum, we would expect urban living to affect the behavior of children because it confines them to sets where it is impossible for them to participate in subsistence activities but brings them rather in contact with specialists who furnish the goods and services ordinarily acquired self-reliantly by each family in country settings. The urban sets with their associated activities decrease a child contact with altruistic and self-reliant models and reduce his opportunity to learn and to practice responsible and helpful behavior. They increase his egoistic behavior and covetousness.

Key words: children, responsible, family etc.

Introduction

The three relevant aspects of setting in turn and examine the components which have been found to affect behavior. The first two, space and activity, are closely related. The type of activities which occur in the areas frequented by a young child are determined by the nature of the space and these activities in turn afford practice in and reinforce certain types of behavior. If children live in a homestead surrounded by two or more acres of land, part of which is under cultivation or in pasture, they can observe or actively participate in gardening or animal husbandry. If, on the other hand, they live in the center of a periurban town on a small plot and the family gardens or pastures are removed from the dwellings, their mothers prefer to leave them at home and hence they may have less frequent chance as young children to observe or participate in subsistence activities. If they live in a housing project with only a few feet of packed clay in front and in back of their housing unit they will have no contact whatsoever with such activities until they return to or visit the country.

The opportunity and requirement that a child participates in the subsistence economy prescribes certain types of behavior. The offering of help and support to others and responsible behavior as measured by the attempt of children to see that their brothers and sisters and friends obey the rules of the homestead and society. In societies where the only tasks that a parent could assign were housecleaning chores, the children showed proportionately less altruistic behavior. It is our hypothesis that the belief that one is an essential contributor to the economic welfare of the family as well as a participator in activities requiring their performance reinforces helpful and responsible behavior.

It is conceivable that the same training may occur in urban families where the mother works and the older children are responsible for tending their young brothers and sisters as well as keeping house, cooking and even buying the food in the market. Since the societies who value and use children as helpers are those where the women have the heaviest work load, these working mothers in the city may instil the same values and train for the same behavior in their children. On the other hand they may find it more difficult to do so and their children may find it more difficult to live up to expectations because other children in the neighbourhood are not given so much responsibility since their mothers are at home. For example, an urban boy left in charge of an infant brother seemed to suffer more in his job and be more tempted by unoccupied neighbours than his counterpart in a country homestead. The latter was able to play around the homestead while the city boy was restricted to the house and small yard. Although the urban mothers who stay home may demand help, they are not really delegating responsibility since they are on hand to supervise and instruct. Our theory would

ISSN 2454-308X



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say that for effective responsibility training to take place the child must be entrusted to perform tasks in the absence of adults.

In sum, at the present stage in our research we would predict that children who do not participate in the subsistence economy will be less responsible and helpful than children who are expected to perform tasks which are clearly related to the economic well-being of the family. Although parents may arrive in the city with values about helpful and responsible behavior, they will find it difficult to train their children in these behaviors. Perhaps the mothers themselves were reflecting this pattern when they commented that the ideal situation was to keep children in the country until they had learned right from wrong.

The participation of children in important tasks also affects their obedience. Here our findings from previous studies are less clear but there is some indication that when children are required to be responsible, mothers put more pressure on children to be obedient. If this finding holds up we would expect to find less compliant children among an urban sample. Our observations in such homes suggest that mothers who are home all day are more likely to issue commands prohibiting action than to command positive actions. Since the content of their restrictions may appear more arbitrary than positive commands related to task activity, they may find it more difficult to motivate their child to be obedient. For example, the urban mothers we observed struggled to keep their children from playing on the beds. Few similar problems or prohibitions occurred in the country. Furthermore, since the urban mothers' commands are less relevant to the welfare of the family as a whole and more motivated by personal feelings, they may be less consistent in following through if the child fails to comply.

Effective policies be developed

Economic growth can be an important engine for change and make a significant difference to children's lives. It offers financial space for governments and families to invest in children and create improved infrastructure and opportunity.

But policies are needed to ensure that recent investments are sustained, focus on the most critical phases in childhood, benefit all children, and extend into early adulthood. In the formulation of effective policies, a great deal depends on which issues are prioritised. Strong leadership in setting government agendas is vital.

In the current global financial climate, sustaining current spending on human development is under challenge. In this context it is important to build resilient systems to protect investments in children's welfare. This may involve emphasising labour-intensive growth which tends to be relatively equitable and could avoid the social problems associated with whole generations coming to feel disenfranchised. understanding the mechanisms through which biases and exclusion are perpetuated for particular groups, and the ways that these mechanisms change over time.

- More pro-poor growth, concentrating on broad socio-economic development at the same time as investing in disadvantaged groups.
- Recognizing the links between sector areas so that all aspects of children's well-being and development can be provided for effectively.
- Widening social protection policies so that they reach poorer populations more effectively.
- Investment in governance, effective accountability mechanisms and human resources in public institutions to tackle the challenges of clienteles', corruption and the quality of public service workers. Attention to balancing the political and fiscal dimensions of sustaining current services.
- Taking the realities of children's lives into account in programme design to ensure that services are appropriate, valued and reach those with most need.



- Above all, policymakers need to treat children as social actors rather than just as users of services or future workers.

Impact can economic growth have on child well-being

Economic growth altered child welfare in several ways. Directly, increases in the family's financial resources improved child well-being. Indirectly, governments can use the additional tax revenue that can come from growth to provide services that benefit children and young people. Economic growth can also change the nature of risk events to which households and children are exposed (such as vulnerability to price increases or loss of livelihood). But, while growth can improve quality of life for poor households, there is a wide variation in how improvements are distributed.

The economies of all four Young Lives countries produced growth that was accompanied by a broad increase in access to services and in levels of primary school enrolment. But such improvements reached children across socio-economic groups differently and produced different outcomes. In Andhra Pradesh, for example, while access to drinking water has increased rapidly (to reach over 97 per cent of Young Lives households), access to sanitation still remains low, at about 35 per cent. While primary school enrolment has become almost universal in India, Vietnam and Peru, the quality of education in government schools has often remained very poor. Such disparities in service access and quality have the potential to undermine children's well-being and skill formation.

Conclusion

Urbanization refers to movement of mankind from rural areas to urban areas and how society adapts the changes. India is facing serious problem of rise in urban population presently. With Urbanization there is increase in social, economic and political progress but on the other hand it also leads to socio-economic problems due to unplanned growth in urban population and lack of infrastructural facilities. The natural growth in population combined with the growth due to migration puts heavy load on public utilities like housing, water, health, education, transport and other commodities and services. People from rural areas migrate to urban areas for better employment opportunities, better education, health and medical facilities, commercialization, better standard of living, social status and so on. Modern-day farming involves new technology lessening the need of manpower leading to Urbanization. There are several problems that upsurge due to Urbanization that need serious attention. Some of the chief problems in India due to Urbanization are overpopulation, poverty, environmental degradation, unemployment, transport, sanitation, pollution and so on.

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