THE UNDERSTANDING OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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Date

Research Focusing on the Understanding of Children and Young People

**Introduction**

Children as well as young adults form an integral part of the human race; they are anticipated to take over their parents and over the entire community. The histories of young people and children perception have come a long way from the time of their oppression dated back in the 10th and 15th century to the present time (Maybin, 2006, p42). The perception held by the ancient people is that children are evil people who are born with sin, and for that sin to escape, they had to be beaten and oppressed. Understanding young people and children as well as knowing their preference and dislike may sometimes be a challenge to many people. The understanding of these individuals discussed in this research paper may lead to a prosperous society since children are expected to be the next generation that the community will depend on, in terms of their ethical behavior and the influence on their conduct.

Many reserchers have tried to conduct studies concerning young people and children. Some scholars are inclined to the idea regarding the over-simplicity in dissociating out perspectives that assist in child conduct. The contemporary held notions by these scholars are in favor of a blended system that fuses hitherto polarized approach on childhood understanding similar to views held by sociologists and biologist (Maybin, 2006, p112). The biologists and sociologists view children as either a product of biological phenomena or a sociological product. Another scholar who has contributed significantly to the understanding of young people and children is Piaget with his developmental psychology book.

Other researchers who have contributed to the study of this group of individuals in the 17th C assert that the image of these young people and children are dominated and generated from the Puritan dogma of belief (Kellett, 2006, p.41-45). Puritan orthodoxy epitomized in the thought that children were naturally born evil, which had to be driven away from them. The Puritan's research perpetuated that young people and children could be enlightened only through the introduction of education in their life, with improvising a stern discipline and control of these individual conduct. They based their argument on the phrase "to spare a child is to spoil the road and that it is only the fire that can alien a crooked wood" (Kellett, 2006, p.71). From the perceptions held by these scholars, children and young people were handled harshly so as to correct their behavior with the impression that they were sinful and evil.

The conclusions arrived from the current, and previous researches that were conducted on the understanding of young people and children draw people to appreciate the contribution of their efforts towards the understanding of these categories of people (Kellett, 2006, p61-64). Primarily, Piaget draws the knowledge of young people and children from a developmental psychological approach where he outlines clear steps in the child's development. Paget's theory has been widely used in various faculties in the school system for educational purposes. Early studies do not fully incorporate the aspect of ethical explanation that is involved in children's life. The influence of modern technology in the understanding of children and young people has not been outlined in many research papers. This research will incorporate the ethical and technical aspects of knowledge of this group of people (children) and assist in understanding them from a different perspective.

**References**

Kellett, M. 2006. *'Pupils as active researchers: Using engagement with the research process to enhance creativity and thinking skills in 10–12-year-olds*.’ British Educational Research Association Annual Conference 6–9 September, University of Warwick, UK.

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**Methodology**

**Sample**

This study aims to promote and establish an ethical understanding of children and young people (young adults) (Connell, 2007, p134). The second aspect and purpose of this research are to help people get a clear understanding of the influence of technology in understanding children and young adult's conduct. The research sampling technology would be conducted mostly in nurseries schools and general school setting and would involve 30 participants from five different institutions. The participants required in the research study would be of age ranging from 5-30 years. Data will also be obtained from universities through university lectures and professors focusing on the study of child philosophy would be used as part of the participants. Students taking courses related to this topic of research, and various teachers from schools teaching young people and children will also be involved. The essence of using a smaller sample size would be to increase the level of accuracy in the research since large samples are difficult to manage and the level of accuracy of findings may be compromised.

The participants selected from different schools where the research will be carried out will be studied carefully for this process to be successful. The study will greatly rely on the help of the instructors of the participants. The teachers will help in selecting young people and children that would be used in the research in the school system (Riessman, 2008, p133-135). There will also be interviews to provide information that would help the researcher attain suitable results. The research will be divided into three sections where the use of technology would be applied. The researcher will have to do his research in one institution for two days before moving to another institution. The whole process would take a maximum period of two weeks.

In the first step, the study will interview the participants from the universities since this group would provide more information regarding the prospective subjects of this study. The first step will be carried out in a maximum period of four days, and the data from this group would be essential for the research since it would be compared with other information obtained from the other two steps (Connell, 2007, p134). In the second step, young people and children will be interviewed and observed through the help of their teachers. In the third and last step, teachers of the participants who may have an interest in the research will be questioned. Children will be randomly selected from institutions where the investigation will be conducted. This information would include the letter that has authorized the researcher to carry the research including the days the study will be expected to be complete.

**Data Collection**

To enhance data collection, several technological devices like computers and phones will be installed in the classes where the study shall take place. It is essential to understand the term technology at this step to help in the proper data collection. Technology refers to the solicitation of scientific epistemology for practical purposes. The application of scientific knowledge would include machinery like laptops, iPads, cell phones, and computers (Riessman, 2008, p153).The use of these devices will help in collecting data appropriately through observation. The researcher will need the data for experimentation purposes to determine suitable level material for a child in the classes and in-service schedules and this would help to give insight into the level of understanding that these individuals hold.

The participant's observation in the various institutions on how the subjects of the research use and apply IT and how this affects their understanding and concentration in class and the society thus changing their behavior would be carried out. The type of observation that would be used in this research would feature any similar open-ended question, with the researcher paying attention to anything that might be of great importance in the research topic, or to the lives of the participants being studied (Connell, 2007, p144). In this research, a systematic or structure type of observation would be employed with a focus on the behavior of the participants, so as to help in understanding them in a better way. In systematic observation, the researcher will have to go to the natural setting to get the data that he/she wants to attain through the study.

Another essential method that would be used in data collection would be the use of interviews. This method can vary according to the extent to which the participants (most likely the professors and lecture) are structured (Connell, 2007, p174). This method would apply to the lectures, professors, students and teachers that the research mentioned early in the first step. The use of one end of the spectrum interviews would employ a fixed set of inquiries that would be administered to the subjects of the research. Each response from the research subjects would be recorded in the exact words and order as they specified them. The analysis will involve the gathering of the responses from the participant and using it in the evaluation of the conducted research.

*Data Analysis*

The information that this research project will obtain from the data collection procedures would either be quantitative, qualitative or both. This is based on the different approaches employed by the research project in obtaining data. “In the quantitative analysis, the data would rely on the ability of the researcher to understand the ethical behavior exposed by children and young people and the impact of technology in understanding the responses” (Riessman, 2008, p167). The qualitative analysis of data would rely on the different expressions by this group of people. This data would help the research attain a desirable outcome that would be used in the evaluation process.

Although other factors tend to affect the children's behaviors in society, it cannot be doubted that these factors may affect the outcome of this research. The use of participants' observation would help to boost the trust of this research. Many of the researchers who opt to use this methodology in their study have yielded a good outcome (Riessman, 2008, p113). Since this methodology allows the researcher to obtain the information from what is observable and provided that more than ten people can affirm to them, it becomes an essential method to use in conducting research. It would be beneficial for this research in analyzing and interpreting the research question by comparing the information obtained from the alternative source that was used in this research. This would help to validate the findings obtained from the research process,

**Time Frame**

The determination of this research's time frame will deliberately depend on the climate, the level of cooperation employed by the participants, as well as the availability of resources involved in the research process. The climate can influence the research process either positively or negatively (Connell, 2007, p144-148). For instance, if there are heavy rains and the weather is cold, many students may be dormant and would not interact freely. This behavior may affect the transparency of their responses and thus it will be difficult to examine them. Another challenge posed by bad weather would be traveling; it would be difficult to visit during the rains. This research would involve movement from one institution to another. These institutions are far apart and require extra funds to cater for traveling costs. The lack of adequate finance may affect the period of this research process. Due to these and other issues that may arise during this research process, a time frame of about 2-4 weeks has been added to the first time frame set for the completion of the research project.

An additional of about 1000 Euros has been set aside for any other issue that may arise that requires the use of extra finances. The entire research process is supposed to take a period of around 9 weeks from the time of its commencement. The research has allocated a period of 2 weeks to obtain permission from the relevant authorities. In the first week, the researcher would write letters to different authorities to be allowed him to conduct the research. In the second week, the researcher would visit these places to obtain the responses. Between the next 3-4 weeks, the researcher would be conducting the research. It is in this period that the researcher would be collecting the data obtained during the process of the study. In the last 3 weeks of the research, the research would be able to sit down and start analyzing the data obtained from the research. The study will have to be conducted in one institution for two days so as get sufficient data. The researcher is expected to attend two institutions in a week.

**Ethics**

The term ethics in research refers to the standards of conducting research that gives attention to the rights of the participants and distinguishing what they may like or dislike and avoiding their dislike as much as possible unless otherwise (Connell, 2007, p224). The use of ethics in a research project will assist in finding out what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior. The logic behind this concept focuses on three critical areas including rights, principle, and outcome. This proposed research has many ethical areas that need to be attended to adequately so as to ensure that the investigation has followed the right procedures in protecting human rights during the research process.

In the initial stage, the illuminated consent; which infers to the permission given in full acknowledgment of possible consequences, is very vital since dealing with children and young people can sometimes be very sensitive and extra caution would be required for the success of the project (Riessman, 2008, p133). This research will be deploying even children under the age of 10 years, and these children do not have the consent of what they are doing. Therefore the researcher would greatly rely on the subjects' teachers and other people surrounding them in the ecosystem they are operating. It is essential to observe the ethics of the group of your participants to avoid implications that may arise from the research work. This would help to guide the integrity of the researcher including the data collected by the researcher.

Since this research is not anticipated to create any harm to the young participants' life, the study would ensure that it pays attention to even the physically challenged participants in ensuring that their rights are protected. The research would also ensure that he does not interfere with the daily operations of the institutions since it will be held during the periods that the participants are free from their classes to avoid any deceptions. To ensure the confidentiality of the information of the participant is protected, it would be advisable to record the names of the participants the analysis he will be using (Connell, 2007, p120-124). The participants that would like some privacy and would not like their names to be mentioned shall be taken into consideration and their demands are taken into account during the process of research. The researcher would also try to be conscious of multiple roles regarding several issues. For instance, he/she would avoid relationships that could reasonably discern his/her professional performance or even that which could exploit or cause harm to other people. It is, however, essential to mention that it is not all relationships that are unethical provided that they're not logically expected to have adverse effects on the participants.

**References**

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Riessman, C.K. 2008. *Narrative Methods for the Human Sciences*. Thousand

Oaks, CA: Sage.

**Evaluation**

From the analysis of the research conducted, it was discovered that children and young adults' media platforms are significantly escalating. It was found that 72% of children under the age of 8 years had used a mobile device, and even many of them have Facebook accounts and WhatsApp (Kellett, 2006, p.329). These quick changes have created new amazing slots and pitfalls that have helped to understand the young people and children in a new phenomenon, and it has presented a host of new problems for parents/guardian. The norm surrounding new technology nurtures etiquette that can be revealing one's motive before self-depiction, and emerge a host of new safety and privacy concerns that causes severe consequences for the children and young adults (Kellett, 2006, p.330).

The contemporary society witnesses an increment on parental vigilance both for the young people education and for their safety (Kellett, 2006, p321). The research focused on understanding what young people use, in what way they are using them, and the amount of time they spend on them and how it would help improve educational outcome. According to the study's findings, these new forms of IT and the usage of media and communication have advantages (Wheeler and Connor, 2009, p.323). Technology also offers some pitfalls involving privacy and safety. The research reveals that as guardians and educators, it's essential for them to be involved in the lives of these individuals so that they don't let technology, especially the use of the social media dictate on how young people and kids grow and develop.

The research also revealed that during the period childhood and adolescence, young people and children understands of the "does and don'ts" and ethical conduct changes very quickly, as well as their cognitive development (Wheeler and Connor, 2009, p343). Despite many young people unconditionally growing up to acquire new morals and ethics of the society they live, parents and teachers play an essential part and role in shaping these behaviors. By the children and young adults being proactive and sharing different expectations that would be required of them, they would be able to share their thoughts. People would be fostering good morals and ethical behaviors in healthy, positive ways to this young generation.

Deductively, it may be of great importance that rules and boundaries are set as an integral way to establish a healthy presupposition for the young people and children in general (Kellett, 2006, p.321). This research reveals that young people lack the core cognitive ability that would assist them in making moral and ethical conclusions in a similar way top their teachers and seniors around them. It is the role of parents and guardians to let their children know the kind of ethics that are required of them as this would provide them with a firm moral and ethical base for their future expected conduct in society. In the process of setting these rules, it becomes essential to be flexible on several issues by pondering if the set regulations are going to be practical or not. For instance, setting rules for young people that are too rigid for them to adhere can lead to rebellious behaviors by young people, particularly in older teens in schools and societies.

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Wheeler, H. and Connor, J. 2009*. Parents, Early Years and Learning*. London National Children’s Bureau.