

# Multifaceted Role of Children's Literature in Chiseling Young Minds

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## **ABSTRACT**

God's creation is endless, marvelous and wonderful. So also, the culture, tradition, the life style, languages, food habits, Child life, growth, the education system. And the aim and theme of life. A comparison of life style of yester children and today's children, the emerging of Children Literature the authors and publishers who made them possible. The way the nuclear family affected the lives of children. The growth of science, Artificial Intelligence, IT Industry, the need of the hour, the expectations of the concerns from youth, what were lost in the gap of time, what are expected of them. Accordingly what type of Children Literature should we develop. What should be done to train the children to prepare them for the future fast paced and anticipated future. If it is not taken care, there would be a question mark about our children and youngster in the minds of every citizen especially in the minds of a literate.

## **KEY WORDS**

Nuclear Family, Inception, Cognitive development, Sympathizers, Empathizers, Absurdity, Didactic, Innocence, Pedagogy

## **Introduction**

The world is full of surprises and wonders since its inception and till date. Each creation on Earth shows God's wisdom, knowledge and unimaginable power of might in His creation. As it is said, India is a land of Unity in Diversity. So also, the culture, tradition and life and living of people. Along our living, we see how our social system functions during the rolling of time period. There were times where the families lived with all their kith and kin as a joined family. The aged elder people too played their roles well. Their presence in the house mattered a lot. They were the care-takers of the house and the children of the family, advisers, engaging persons and guides for toddlers. Even now we elder recall what our grandparents told us, guided us, led us, fed us and showed us. Those matters still remain in us as literatures in our memory and keep working in us as the holy books and lead us to victory.

The Children's Literature are there ever from the beginning of literature. They are written and visual narratives taken from the novels, poetries, pictorial books and tales of fairies, fables, and other such sources. The Children's Literature established itself as a complete genre by itself and performs and plays an important role to shape, instruct, advise, lead the lives of children. These initiate their imagination, increase their vocabulary, promoting their social, mental, physical and emotional growth. In every joint family, there used to be a story

time before or after the dinner. The children of the family gathered around the grandparents. The tight corner of the day's trivial time where children feel lonely turns to be an important moment in their lives. If that moment is not cared, there arise a check in their lives. If that moment is taken care by someone in the family, During the story time, there opens a venue, shower of words, sound effect, visual imagination, body language, facial expression and morals. The children understand the concepts which form a mental picture. Children never felt lonely, uncared and forsaken. In their need, they had somebody near them, helped them, consoled them and met all their needs. Those stories narrated by the Grand parents have turned to be the Literature for children

### **Multifaceted Role of Children's Literature in Chiseling Young Mind**

Children's literature plays a multifaceted and transformative role in shaping young minds. Children's Literature administers and instructs the children. These are in the form of books, magazines, songs, recordings show through Television, films, fairy tales, fables, cartoon pictures and so on. These sources increase their language skills like listening, reading, writing and speaking. Help them form new concepts and initiates critical thinking. They do serve as a cultural resource to learn to learn various diverse cultures, traditions to explore and experiment themes of identity, safe guarding, resisting their whims and fancies and to realize their social issues and responsibilities.

When Children are exposed to such literature, they get a ground to improve their reading skills in turn a love for reading. When reading is done, it becomes a good and useful hobby for their free time having books as their companions. It restricts them from indulging into unwanted and unnecessary practices and habits. Reading helps them in their cognitive development of knowing about the world and universe. Due to their listening, reading and viewing the literature, they turn to be the dreamers, empathizers, sympathizers, society bound and family oriented. They even learn to pursue their passions.

To quote a few examples of such literature, Aesop's fables, The Pancha Tantra stories, Jataka tales, The Arabian Nights and Pilgrim's progress can be grouped as classics, picture books and comics. The Kaziranga Trail and Cheerful spirits as adventure stories, the little red riding Hood, The Snow Queen as Fairy tales and Nursery Rhymes are the varieties of Children Literature.

The Children Literature in Education appeared in 1970. There were a series of conferences and meetings with an urge of creating Children Literature at the University of Exeter between 1969 and 1973. In 1969 in the St. Luke 's campus. Recent Children's fiction and its role in Education were reprinted. In 1962 French Historian Phillipa Aries complained that the concept of childhood reading arose recently and the children were not considered as children from adults and surely not considered as children. He quotes that there was a lack of genuine books written aiming the children in mind before 18<sup>th</sup> century and there were only instructional and didactic texts for children by Clerics like, Venerable Bede and Aelfric of Eynsham. The play of Daniel from 12<sup>th</sup> century was designed to insist the values, attitudes and information necessary for children within their cultures.

The growth old Children Literature took place in 17<sup>th</sup> century in Europe. The adults understood the innocence of children and they felt the need for protecting them. John Locke's theory of Tabula Raso in 1690 tells a fact that human mind is a blank slate at birth without any rules, data but with sensory experiences. Locke suggested that easy and pleasant books can develop their mind rather than using force to compel them. Children Literature is spread among the contemporary works. It is a broad and wide works planned to educate, inspire, induce, teach, entertain keeping to occupy the young minds. It includes various genres like picture books, Fantasy, Real fiction, Historical fictions and poetry. The themes brought out are friendship, family, courage, adventure, social awareness, issues, environment, nature, animal lives and so to develop, make themselves literates and to understand the feelings of fellow beings to act as a powerful tool to turn them optimistic.

The well-known works of Children Literature in English are Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl, The very hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle, Alice Adventures in wonderland by Lueis Carroll, Charlottes's Web by E B White, Harry Potter and the philosopher by J K Rowling, Little women by Louisa May Lott. Even The Adventure series, the Little Prince Antoine de saint, The wind in the willows by Kenneth Grahame. And the Black Beauty by Anna Sewell is another good example. Peter Pan by James Mathew, The Girl who drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill, The Lion inside by Rachel Bright are the few with themes such as virtue and vices, Importance of kindness, humility, power of imagination, growth and transformation, the cycle of life and healthy eating, the nature of reality versus dreams, absurdity of social norms and expectation, friendship, life,

death, sacrifice, loyalty, courage, prejudice, tolerance, corrupting influences of power, evolving roles of women, adventure, contrast between the simple life and allure of material possession, loyalty and comfort of home.

To explore the thoughts of a few authors and the views of the author, Antoine de Saint in his work *The Little Prince* shows the difference between the adult and child, The theme, the childhood and adulthood highlights the differences. The story portrays that children are very imaginative, curious and capable of seeing beyond external appearances but the adults are shown to be narrowminded, material oriented, and the narrator of the story discovers his childlike miracle through his interaction with the Little Prince. The importance of relationship is shown well. The Little Prince 's relationship with the rose, the pilot's tight bond with the prince, the love for the fox brings out the bonding and the shaping of understanding of the world and ourselves. The Little Prince's journeys from planet to planet in search of meaning and truth. The Little Prince's meeting of various people with vanity, power, aimless chasing for truth is really shown. The Little Prince embodies innocence and a boundless imagination. It is clear that children's Literature is written with an objective and aim that must be guided and taught the virtues of life.

When the growth of Children Literature is dealt from 18<sup>th</sup> century till date, it has evolved significantly changing and transforming itself from mere an instructional material to a perfect genre. They were educational and moralistic in order to focus on character and basic literacy.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century had a blooming in publishing the fairy tales marked an era and the Victorian Era was the golden age of Children Literature with the Publishers like John Newbery. In 20<sup>th</sup> century, the rise of Fantasy and Series books, modern classics marked a great revolution in Children 's Literature. Authors like Charles Perrault, Charles Dickens, Iconic Fantasy authors like J R R Tolkien, C S Lewis and Roald Dahl are rather challenging and rise of Series of Books and Nancy Drew series were emerging successfully. According to NIH (National Institutes of Health) Bibliotherapy was given importance.

The growth of Children Literature is so tremendous and warming. But the present situation and environment that the children face are rather challenging and below in achievement. The habit of reading among children has vanished. They feel comfortable with meddling in the mobile. They spend hours and hours in watching and listening to mobile apps. The present parents have become busier in their business, work and jobs. The demand they face from their employers, the work pressure, the completion of projects have become so deep and they do not want their children disturbing them. They get satisfied when their children are engaged in their mobile and keep themselves occupied. Mostly parents working in I T fields do not have security of jobs too. They struggle hard to cope up with the demands of their positions and income. So they never find time to check their children's activities and their reading habits, the type of books they read. If the children are quiet, the parents are satisfied. Educational Institutions whether private or Government wherever they work, they are vested with lot of responsibilities, the teachers could not cater the needs of students in guiding them in their reading habit or taking them to the libraries or advising them to buy the correct books for their reading. The children do not know the importance of writing. The Art of good handwriting and Letter Writing are disappearing from the lives of youngsters. They satisfy themselves by wishing their parents, relatives and friends through their mobile phones on special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries instead of sending selective cards and gifts wholeheartedly. The traditions and culture are forgotten and nobody

Tales were once passed on from one generation to another with great faith, imagination and belief available. Still Children Literature play an important role in Education, educating the youth with knowledge, with the search of original articles from 1960 to 2019 the well selected didactic based stories brought, 17 studies oriented with pedagogic aspect of youngsters, 21 and 17 studies about didactic and therapeutic aspects were located. The pedagogic point of attention can convey the useful basic values to the children. Stories chosen aptly in didactic dimensions could be valuable resource for school activities, improving language skills and building a healthy and friendly classroom atmosphere Story books and web based digital information may be useful for health issues and taking up healthy life styles. Children literature and through story telling students' global development could be enriched.

## Conclusion

Story telling can still be a practice to educate children in schools and at home. the stories really bring the power of developing their logical skills. They might practice honesty. They live in the age of AI and Cyber Security. The story form of Literature can maximize their potentiality, awaken their creativity. They would learn to communicate their views and minds,

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