

## THE INFLUENCE OF THE FAMILY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD

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The family is the primary unit where a child is born. The newborn baby gets, first identity in the family. Identities of the baby such as his or her name, religion, caste, creed, race-everything is determined by the family at the very moment of birth in a particular family. Genetically a child possesses certain qualities from parents or forefathers which takes a particular shape in due course of time of the development of the child. Particularly, it inherits its physique and intelligence by birth. Emotional, mental, Psychological and social dimensions of personality are mostly shaped by the family environment with the passage of time when a child grows up.

At the very initial stage a child is completely dependent upon his or her parents, more particularly on mother, because it is the breast feeding that ties a baby with its mother indispensably. After a certain period of development, the child's physical development depends upon the kind of food provided by the family. The quality of food provided by the family indirectly depends upon the economic condition of the family and some social factors such as religious belief and the food habit of the particular community where the child is born. The physical health and growth of a child thus depends upon completely the care taken by the family.

The development of the mental life of a child is also influenced by the family environment. The family environment has its various

dimensions like mental, emotional, social, religious etc. The mentality of a child is determined by the mental and psychological environment of a family. The kind of mental activity that is practiced in the family has its influence upon the mental life of a child. The mood and kind of conversation of a family has its indirect impact upon the behavior and style of living of a child.

The emotional relationship that exists among the members of a family has its impact upon the child's emotional life. The feeling of emotional security and insecurity grows from the very emotional environment of the family. If the emotional feeling among the members of a family is very congenial, cordial and peaceful, it will certainly help to develop a healthy emotional and ideal way of life of a child. If we analyse deeply the root of disturbed emotional life of adulthood we can find that it lies on the unhealthy emotional experiences of childhood in the family environment. In today's competitive world, healthy and sound emotional life is considered most significant to be successful in every field. So it is the family, it is the parental emotional bond it is the healthy emotional relationship among the family members, it is the emotional care taken by the family members and parents of a child, which is ultimately responsible for the development of a healthy emotional life of a child.

It is generally believed that intelligence is inherited by birth. But it is also equally true that inherited intelligence finds its scope to express



through the family environment at the early stage of life of a child. The inherited intelligence will remain dormant until and unless it will find scope for exposure. No doubt at a certain stage, the child will try to express himself or herself, but this task of expressing oneself will be easier if the family environment at the initial stage of the life provides that scope.

The religious life of a child is also determined by the family. The religious rules, regulations and rituals that are followed in a family, determine the future religious life of a child. The religious attitude too is determined by the religious environment of the family.

The social life of a child is particularly influenced by the family environment. The social status and position occupied by a family influences a child's future social life. It becomes easier for a child to be socially established or socially reacquainted, if it comes from a family of high social status or position.

The future economic life, profession and vocation whatever is selected by a child in their adult life is also can not be said as completely free from family influence. The child generally has a tendency to follow their parents in every respect. This is not exception in respect of their selection of future profession also. It has to be agreed to some extent that family profession has its indirect impact upon the selection of profession of the future life. Although, in the modern age it is also true that there is exception of it. Now a days the child of a farmer, is also becoming doctor, engineer etc.

The language, race, caste and creed are determined by the family for a child at the very time of its birth.

Thus it may be concluded that a child's future life is to a great extent influenced by the family in which he or she is born and unfortunately or fortunately over which he or she has no control or has no choice.