

A Critical Review of Childhood and Social Institutions

by Marka A Critical Review Of Childhood And Social Institut

FILE	A_CRITICAL_REVIEW_OF_CHILDHOOD_AND_SOCIAL_INSTITUTIONS.DOC (43.5K)		
TIME SUBMITTED	22-MAR-2017 02:16PM	WORD COUNT	1268
SUBMISSION ID	787903932	CHARACTER COUNT	7173

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Introduction

Children are known to be different from adults and many societies acknowledge that difference. Their generations and cultures differ from each other at times vary widely. At times the young children are very ignorant of many things, as James Heckman points this out thereby forcing the social institutions like churches and schools to intervene. This means that the first years of a child really matters as it is the time they are taught a lot of things not only by their parents but also the social institutions. Heckman believes that the social institutions do not do much in shaping the role of the children. Parents initiate their children to knowledgeable aspects while the families network with many institutions around them. Many childcare centers have been formed and people are reaping heavily from them as it becomes the first contact to many children with the outside world. While growing up the children will have access to ¹public schools, social services providers, health care services, employers, and police are some of the other institutions that the youth encounter when transitioning to adults. These institutions will train them in various fields, categorize them, and sustain the social worth. The child care services, public and private schools, churches, health care centers are all institutions that children interact with at first. There is a lot of exposure here for them to be able to observe the different lifestyles in the world and face the reality. These are the social institutions that initiate and prepare them for the outside world and they are divided according to the social classes in the society.

Discussion

The children receive different quality of services in these institutions since they all come from different backgrounds, therefore, attending different places. The quality of services varies according to the social class of their clients as each group will want to identify with its own a fact that receives scant attention in Heckman's piece.¹ The leading public and private schools customarily offer smaller class sizes compared to the other less affluent, higher-level courses, and their transition programs to colleges are intense.

The author focuses on the traditional education which he claims cripples imaginations, discourage critical thinking, and creates a false view of learning. According to him the schools inflicts harm on the students deliberately and creates byproducts of rote – memorization drills. He wants the young people to be conditioned to rely on experts so as to develop self-reliance and have a sense of independence. He advocates for schools to practice open-source learning so that the young people can be able to develop properly.² Open-source learning is where the students use the internet to maximum levels to create and manage their own learning experience. They are able to produce interactive material that is available online to everyone else.

The social institutions are flawed as discrimination is out there open and the children are exposed to such judgments and they learn that the society is rotten. Cases of innocent people being convicted rise each year while the courts show an open racism policy. The black men are convicted at higher rates than the white men with comparable charges such as assault. It is a

1. Heckman, James. "Promoting Social Responsibility - Importance of Social

Institutions". *Boston Review* (2012): 200-227. Print.

2. Gatto, John Taylor. *Weapons of mass instruction: A schoolteacher's journey through the dark world of compulsory schooling*. New Society Publishers. 2010.

society where guilty men are walking free because they can pull strings such that the law cannot affect them. ¹ Social workers misguidedly cut off families with young children from the government support leaving them vulnerable while some childcare workers are sometimes abusive.³ The rough figures estimate that the working-class families have a higher lack of trust the basic institutions than the middle-class families.

The schools change frequently their criteria of accomplishment in students' performance and the methods used for promoting achievement just like the stock-market. ¹ Middle-class parents gain advantages for their children by being in sync with the standards of institutions. My research has found that while working-class parents often look visibly anxious or withdrawn at school events for their young children, middle-class parents look much more comfortable. At an "open house" at an elementary school, for example, middle-class parents joked with each other and with the educators. A comparable event at a school with working-class families was quiet and awkward. Failing social institutions must be kept on toes so that they do not compound poor children's disadvantage.

John Taylor criticizes the way people follow orders and attribute this to the social institutions. People do not make their own independent decisions when told to do something but follow what they are told blindly. In learning institutions, the children are trained to do what they are told and this applies even in their adult lives. Another thing is always eager to please their seniors, the students will always want to be on the good side with their teachers. He also criticizes that the children are always kept away from doing a lot of things. They are told not to climb trees, not to talk in class unless their hands are up and chosen by the teacher, do not play

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3. Morrow, Virginia. "Conceptualising Social Capital In relation to the Well-being of Children and Young People: a critical review." *The sociological review* 47.4 (1999): 744-765.

rough and many other things. This affects the students as some will have to be told what to do in their adult lives.

The middle-class parents incline to listen more faithful and closely in all the historical eras to the advice of professionals. Heckman has not focused more on the various ways in which institutions are organized and the gauges they use in evaluations in order to understand the role of class differences in life. Nowadays there is an increase in the middle-class population and their nurturing strategies may be tied to their educational backgrounds. Arrogant children are a chip off the old block.

Children of the working-class parents are immensely more respectful of their families including their siblings. The working-class families manage to maintain a certain level of connection even for than a decade which the middle-class families lack. Many working-class parents keep in touch with their families daily as they are concerned and they care about them. When transitioning to adulthood the working-class youth often have a vibrant changeover to adulthood than the middle-class youth who struggle.⁴The middle-class youth have strong and high academic performances but they are very dependent on their parents.

The babies born currently in the world will have distinct lifestyles depending on the social class of their families. The social class will define who they are and dictate the social institution they will attend to access the basic services. The role of social institutions in the production and validation of the pattern of inequality should not be marked down.

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4. Morrow, Virginia. "Conceptualising Social Capital In relation to the Well-being of Children and Young People: a critical review." *The sociological review* 47.4 (1999): 744-765

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