

Generating The Next Generation

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62 years old Joshi Uncle got a heart attack one evening and got admitted to ICU in Panvel. Poor Joshi aunty had tough time managing home and hospital front simultaneously. Finance was not a problem since lone son was a software engineer settled in Silicon Valley. He was informed and he promptly advised to shift Joshi uncle to ICCU in Hinduja Hospital and transferred money; but expressed his inability to come down due to work commitment. Uncle and aunty could not hide their tears.

Today I see young couple bringing their 6 yrs old 1st child with complaints of hyperactivity, poor school performance in spite of attending best schools in town and attending tuitions from best (?) teachers. Then I ask the parents- What about his play time? "No Doctor, he don't have time but we have given him computer and he plays games on it and he is so excellent in surfing on net"

This is changing culture of child raising in developing India and we have already started side effects of this culture. This child hardly does any physical activity. This child sitting in front of computer or monologue television for hours together has hardly developed any communication, interactions skills. While doing so he keeps eating unhygienic fast food items unknowingly, continuously and in no longer time develops obesity. Today's Mall nutrition (arising in shopping mall culture) as multiple detrimental effects on child's physical, mental, social development.

I ask such parents "What you used to do when you were 6 years old."

Ans: We used to play a lot; but doctor days have changed – there is so much of competition now, they have to survive in future.

This is such a poor justification; the competition has increased due to population, but there is lot many new fields opened up – creating lots many opportunities. Today Dhirubhai Ambani, Bill Gates and many such non-graduates could create empires and could employ millions of so called highly educated people. So to be successful you need to be innovative, hard working and focused; education alone is not sufficient. All-round development of your child is so much important as the academic activities.

As parents what we need to do passively is to put a good role model for our children. A senior govt. officer a good friend of mine brought his son for consultation. While discussing, mother said proudly my daughter wants to work in share market and my son want to become a banker. I asked this 8 years old son why he wants to become a banker. He replied promptly- there is lot of money in this job. How does an 8 years boy understand money so much so early? I have seen children having ambitions of becoming pilot, teacher, soldier, but this was rare one who wanted to be a banker and this is role model effect – the idea is passively imbibed by parents which in later life may create another Mr. Joshi's son.

As a good parent what we need to ensure most is, impart good moral values in our children see to it that good conscience is created in them so that they can differentiate between good and bad, human and inhuman creating feeling of ethical obligations; obligations towards the school which taught them, obligations towards the country which grew them to successful person and obligations towards the parents who are so instrumental in their being self. If this is done properly you will see some Mr Joshi in ICCU bed with his well educated son sitting next to him caring for him and perhaps that caring son is more healing medicine for him than ICCU support.

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