

Abstract

Early Childhood Education is a term that usually refers to the period of time from the child's birth through when they are entering kindergarten. Early childhood education programs whether it is in United States or a different country, it is extremely important for a child's development. In these first few years of the child's life, they develop interests that will stay with them for the rest of their lives and they learn how to interact with the people all around them including peers, educators and parents. Children develop social skills, cognitive, mental, physical and other objectives of early education. These years determine the foundation of the child's learning and development. Education programs are largely determined by supportive community and supportive family members, no matter where in the world they are in. Children who usually attend early childhood education program tend to be more competent and confident in their activities throughout the day. These programs have incredible benefits that can follow into adulthood as well.

India's early childhood the indicators are little low compared to U.S, some of the indicators are parent engagement, skills development and literacy development. India's early childhood education program goals and outcomes focuses on the developing strength and coordination of small and large motor skills muscles. They also focus a lot on cognitive development such as skills related to reasoning, observing and problem solving. In India they develop expression, enjoyment and disposition for music and movement. The programs include 30 minutes of music and movement every single day. The educators encourage the children to develop initiative and curiosity in new experiences and learning, they also try to encourage the children to develop self-control, self- concept, self-help and life long skills. While I was reading

an journal it stated that they include more of the natural environment through songs, dance and play for young children.(Pattnaik, J. 2018) They believe that the program is a balanced activity and play based program which provide a stimulating environment for social-emotional, language, intellectual, and physical development of the child. As I was comparing the India's program to United States, I have noticed some of goals and outcomes were similar, such as how both the programs focuses on cognitive, physical, emotional and language.(Lupoli, C. 2013, June/July).

According to National Rural Health Mission, in India currently the mothers are going to the hospital to birth their child. However in the past, the women and their family would have a traditional homebirth in a safe and securing surrounding. They have shifted from home to hospital birth due to overall economic growth and maternal health discourses. (Sharma, B., Giri, G., Christensson, K., K V, R., & Johansson, E. (2013, October 3). However while reading an article (Kaplan,L. 2017). In the early 20th century, majority of the U.S births occurred in the home by female midwives, family and friends. The similarity I found during these two articles for my country and U.S is that none of the people helping to birth the mother at home had any sort of formal training or any licensing. Another similarity I found was both U.S and India, the midwives and the family would help out with the birth home. The last similarity I found is that both these countries started off with home birth and then switched to hospital birth. The differences I found is the century's each of the home birthing began, in U.S it began in the 18th century while India's birthing process at home began 20th century. One of the differences is that more people prefer home births than hospital births in India. The other differences I found is that home birth in India is higher rate than the U.S home birth rate. Also in India, they prefer having someone they know delivering their child instead of a random doctor at the hospital.

While I was reading and going over the mapping for neonatal mortality in India (Indian, J Community Med., (2017 October-Dec). There is 53% Indian under-5 deaths occur during the neonatal age group. It is different from India because there is 15% rate in U.S. For U.S they have an intensive care where the parents with newborns can put them there for special care. While in India, they also have an NICU intensive care centers. Another similarity I found is both the countries have NIPU which is family integrated care, where the parents are also involved in their newborn due to (J. Perinatol., 2017 Dec). In both India and U.S, the parents are very much involved and wanting to have the best care for their newborns. Also in both the countries, the doctors tell the parents procedures for them to follow, both the parents in these countries follow the steps carefully.

At Bright Horizons in U.S, they believe that young children should be around in a safe, peaceful environment and having nurturing, and trusting relationships. For parents it is well to plan ahead and maintain a predictable schedule. They also encourage spending time with their children such as family time activities, dinner together and reading bedtime stories together. Bright Horizon, also encourages intervention strategies such as pointing out behavior, encouraging children to use words to solve problems. Whereas comparing the intervention strategies in India they mainly focus on the physical therapy, and speech therapy. The early intervention in India mainly focuses on the learning skills and developing independence. They also use personalized activities that fit into the child's and families everyday life. As you can see above, both U.S and India have more than several differences. Some of the similarities that I have found for both these countries is that, they both include the parents to be involved a lot in the child's life such as being involved with their everyday life in the morning, during school and night. Both countries strategies are to focus mainly on the language development, social-

emotional development and cognitive development. Another similarity I have found for both countries is that families benefit from early intervention by being able to better meet their child's needs and throughout their lives. Also for both countries early intervention helps young children work toward meeting developmental milestones.

My interviewer is female who resides in Macon, Georgia. Her cultural and ethnic origin is India. She came to United States to be with her husband and her whole family. (P. Anita, personal., interviewer. February 18, 2020). As I was interviewing her, I asked her some of the EECE policy's that were going on in India. I asked her about the equity and the rights of India, and she told me that every person who lives within the territory of India, has the equal right before the law, meaning that it is equal in the same line. There is no discrimination based on caste, race, religion, sex and/or place of birth. (P. Anita, personal., interviewer. February 18, 2020). Another policy rate I researched and found in an article was about the legislation, standards, regulations and interagency agreements. While I was reading one of the articles it talked about the portion of legislative seats are awarded using one system such as majority/plurality. The government often draws standards when putting together legislation and/or guidance documents. Standards are used to establish the technical detail and allowing the legislation to concentrate on long term policy such as environmental protection and product safety. (PLoS Med. 2017 April).

Quality improvement and resource development in India has been improving as the years go by. One of India's special issue they have been improving is called 'Better healthcare through quality improvement.' The purpose for this is to support healthcare providers in using various quality improvement approaches and showcases. (Deorari, A., 2018 September, 28). The government of India has developed and implementing a comprehensive quality for public health

programs. The article also talks about improving quality through closing gaps and implanting opportunities for improvement.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development talks about the minorities in India and the educational support states “that all minorities should have the right to establish and administer education intuitions of their own.” The support of India’s education sector focuses of specific projects strategies to increases access to quality education that include support enrolment, community campaign to raise awareness on importance of education.

As I was asking questions to my interviewer, I wanted to learn more about the education program and just the overall lifestyle they have in India, compared to the one I have in the U.S. I asked her several cultural, personal and educational questions about India. One of the personal questions that stood out to me was the question “Have you ever experienced racism, if so how?” She stated that ever since she came to America, she has always encountered racism due to the color of her skin and the accent. I experience it in my day to day life, people at the grocery store will be rude to me or look at me differently and its really upsetting, because I also am human.” (P. Anita, personal., interviewer. February 18, 2020). This stood out to me because I do not want any of my students in the future getting bullied, and I just thought of ways we could prevent it as a community in whole.

As I tie all this together, I have learnt many differences and similarities in both the countries. Overall differences I found is in the educational program, with India they are in school for about 6 days a week, they have half days on Saturdays. While in U.S they are in school through Monday through Friday. Another differences I recognized is that during lunch time in India, they are allowed to leave the school building and go home to eat and come back, there is no breakfast or lunch available for the students. Whereas in U.S in every school system both

breakfast and lunch is provided for the students and staff. Another difference that stood out to me and I really liked was that in India, when class is dismissed the teachers are the ones who move classroom to classroom, majority of the schools in U.S the students usually go from classroom to classroom. The overall education in India and U.S isn't too much of a difference when it comes to early childhood developments, they both include and mainly focus on physical, cognitive, social emotional developments. As well as the governments in India and in U.S are both federal parliamentary republic. (CIA., World Factbook 2018). The U.S economy forefront in technological advances whereas India's economy is mainly focused on agriculture such as handcrafting, farming etc.

During this research, I have gained a lot of knowledge about being an educator with diverse children and families that I will meet. It is important to recognize the experiences and thoughts of students in an learning environment. I believe that students learn from educators, and educators learn from students. Each and every student in the classrooms are unique in their own way, they all come from different backgrounds and they all have their own cultural identity. By exploring and accepting all the different cultural differences, they become more aware of racism and can prevent it. Diversity comes in different variety of aspects, it is not limited to only religion, race, and national origin. After doing this research I have learned it is more than that, it also is learning differences, skill characteristics, socioeconomic status , disability, educational level and many more. I truly believe it is very important for all educators to examine the worlds diversity before analyzing the classrooms diversity for a much better understanding. I strongly believe that learning and diversity go hand in hand, people from all over the world come together with different experiences and come in the classroom to learn all the same things.

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