

Analysis Paper Sample

Parenting Styles & Their Impact

It is a widely accepted belief that happy and healthy childhood ensures the best future of a person. Parenting is an art that is single-handedly the most influential factor in growth and wellbeing of children. Parenting primarily comes in many forms and shapes, where the common recipe to all is to equip children with love, compassion, responsibility, acceptance and commitment. Parenting is also considered as a community business, since not just the biological parents, but also the whole community acts together in teaching a child about many worldly aspects of daily life. In lieu of this fact, there has always been a race among different cultures concerning parenting and child growth. Different people across the world in fact learn from each other about parenting styles and all have been appreciated for best practices each of them adopts. However, an excerpt of Amy Chua's book *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother* published in *Wall Street Journal* namely 'Why Chinese Mothers are Superior' caused a stir among parents in general and Western parents in particular. It even led to the screams of outrage and accusations against Chua for abusing other parents for being lenient on their children's growth, hence outpouring a debate on good parenting styles across the globe. On the whole, the current discussion in this regard has led to more serious reflection on various forms and styles of parenting and building case on whether Western or eastern practices of parents centred towards children's growth are more perfect, whereas the basic goal of parents is to assist their children in becoming successful individuals who would be capable to make choices and solve problems of to achieve their goals in life

Chua's article outlines ten activities that she expects her children not to indulge in. These points reflect the hindrances imposed by her on her daughters so as to not interact with others of their age group in free environment and socialize with them or even do sports that could keep their bodies in shape. She further makes a distinction between loosely termed 'Chinese mothers' and 'Western parents' based on the strictness level demonstrated by both respectively for children's development (261). Such allegations in her article against the Western parents calling them bad at parenting caused a massive outrage that led to many people making humble requests of not buying Chua's book to further promote her ideas. Even Kolbert, in her critique of Chua's excerpt, has stated that most of the parents in West have taken the concept of 'Tiger Mother' personally against their own parenting credibility (277). Chua's method of parenting has additionally taken everyone by surprise, because what she opines is that childhood is all about preparation for adulthood, and hence believes her parenting methods will produce successful, ambitious and happy adults; while her critics provide a converse opinion by stating that such methods will only produce 'neurotic, self-absorbed and unhappy ones' (Murphy 279). Such treatment of children will also not help them becoming the great problems solvers of future.

Additionally, this controversy has already got Chua into trouble as she has been reported getting death threats for hurting the sentiments of Western parents, as a response to which she has already stated that her actual book reflects her own parenting experiences and is more of a memoir and is not parenting manual outlining a how-to guide (Kolbert 277).

The basic point of disagreement between Chua and her Western critics is whether childhood is about the preparation of adulthood or not, where the former supports this assertion. In addition to that, Chua opines that Chinese parents believe that their children can get the perfect grades and hence their parents demand and expect the same from them. Similarly, Chinese parents are of the view that their children do not own anything of their own and everything they possess and activity they do is actually owed to their parents. The reason she provides for this argument is that parents sacrifice everything to bring up their children. She additionally argues in favour of Chinese parents that they are aware what is best for their children and do that accordingly even when they have to override their children's decisions, which even halts them from doing any social activity such as sleep over, playing games and participating in a drama festival etc. Converse to that, the Western critics have rejected the parenting approach of Chua in outright manner by stating that children are not just adults in the training, as they even in such small age also possess distinctive powers of observation and exploration. The children are morally innocent beings and they are free from any such burden of evil knowledge, which is the specialty of adult life. They also opine that the children must be given choices for their likely future, i.e. they must be exposed to the world and taught to observe and explore and based on that should build their future (Murphy 279). Children should also be given sufficient time to play games and live in their world of fantasy and hence must be given enough space so that they build their personality according to their own choices and are not bound by time or parental pressure, as that will alienate them from their surroundings. Therefore, the main distinction between the parental approaches presented by Chua and her Western critics is the freedom and liberty enjoyed by children for being individual human beings with certain powers and joys that they seek through spending enough time on games and social activities other than studies. Such freedom will play the most important role in enhancing their confidence building, mental growth and interests for achieving their goals in life.

When it comes to preparing the children to be competitive in current as well as future marketplace, it has been mentioned above too that, according to Chua, the childhood is mere preparation for the adult life. By this, Chua means that children are not able to comprehend the real meaning of their life and that is why Chinese parents are responsible for driving their children towards the path of success, development and growth even when they have to override their children's decisions. Chua further argues that another approach in building the bright future of children is to enable them excel in their academics and develop an ability to get As in all the subjects.

Chua rules out the role played by sports and socialization in Chinese children's development and growth, as she deems such activities as utter waste of time and their lack of contribution towards their child's future. On the other hand, Western critics have presented a different picture than what Chua has presented. Most of the critics opine that not just academics but also sporting and other extracurricular activities play a marked role in building the best future of children. This is because if a person has great talent and will to succeed in his life, then he does not even need great education (Goldstein 273). On spiritual grounds, critics also state that children must be motivated and encouraged for all their endeavours and should be allowed to do adventurous activities in order to boost up their confidence and mental as well as physical strength.

In conclusion, it can be stated that both Chinese and Western parenting styles are based on two different social and cultural systems. The Chinese are culturally more shy and reserved, whereas the Western people are more open and vivid in their life styles. The differences in their life styles are also reflected in their parenting approaches, where Chua's approach is to equip Chinese children from childhood with knowledge and restrict them from unnecessary extracurricular activities and socialization. On the other hand, Western critics to Chua have rejected this assertion and state that children must be given more exposed environment where they observe and explore their surroundings. The synthesis of both the approaches must be aimed at development and growth of children on sound footing by enabling them to develop mental as well as physical strength.

Works Cited

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