

FOUNDATIONS FOR HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Syllabus written and taught by:

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Preamble

Holistic Child Development is getting importance in UNO, UNICEF and governments of various nations because 400 million children are at risk. Building the future generation in values, security, health, equality and perspectives and to be responsible citizens in society has become a necessity for the present generation. It's an important ministry of the churches, government and communities. On What basis? – is the question. The conceptual frame work should be addressed. This course is to discuss the concept of development based on various ideologies and explore the biblical understanding of development. While there are a number of other foundations like medical, psychological, philosophical, etc., this course deals with three important foundations for holistic child development. These foundations become basis for reformulating existing opinions and approaches towards children in churches and society. Field visit and Group discussions are included as an important component for the students studying this subject to enhance the interaction between theory and praxis and thus trying to achieve an impact of hidden curriculum on the learners so as to develop their ministry in future.

Objectives

1. To *introduce* to the learner various understanding and theories of development and the importance of holistic development with particular reference to children.
2. To *develop the skill* of identifying and analyzing various problems and issues related to HCD.
3. To *study* the biblical, contextual and ecclesiastical foundations for HCD by interpreting the biblical texts, contextual data and critically evaluating the theological views prevalent in churches.
4. To *apply the insights* gained out of this study for the reformulation of theologies and restructuring ministries in churches towards HCD.

Course Requirement

1. An essay on one of the foundations for HCD – 20 %
2. Field visit and Report – 30 % - presenting for group discussion
3. Final Exam – 50 %

Expected outcome

1. The Learner would have learnt the concepts and theories of development and the need for holistic child development
2. The learner has developed his or her skill to identify the issues and interpret biblical texts and data from the context for HCD.

3. The field visit combined with the study has opened the eyes to see the problems of children and the need of appropriate theological emphasis in our teaching and preaching and renewal of our approaches for HCD in churches and mission fields.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE

Unit I. Theology of Development

1. Definition of 'Development' and Development Debate
2. Kinds of Development – Spiritual, Social, Economic, Cultural and Political
3. Ideologies for Development – Capitalism, Marxism, Socialism, Gandhism, etc.
4. Biblical concept of Development

Unit II. Biblical Foundation for Holistic Child Development

1. Old Testament – Study of Selected Texts.
2. New Testament – Study of Selected Texts

Unit III. Contextual Foundation for Holistic Child Development

1. International and Indian Context
2. Status and Role of children in Indian society – Family, Caste, Dalit, Tribe, Village, City
3. Issues and problems for HCD
4. Responses from various institutions – Government, NGOs and Religious other than Christianity

Unit IV. Ecclesiastical Foundation for Holistic Child Development

1. Status and role of children in churches
2. Identifying issues for HCD
3. Reformulating theology and praxis for HCD
4. Restructuring the ministries of church

Summary and Evaluation: Towards Pastoral Theology of Holistic Child Development

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Commentaries

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