

## Nursery and Psychomotor Development of Children 3-5 Years Old In Benin

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**Abstract:** Kindergarten is school for supervision of children aged 3-5 years whose responsibility falls to the government. This structure has been able to shape the mind of the child by a program already pre-established learn language, structure his thinking, explore world, through artistic activities, physical activity in view of its psychomotor development. Success will depend on financial, material, logistical and qualified personnel. Unfortunately, the State no longer meets these requirements and this has become the backbone for some donors focusing in urban areas. We do not understand this action with variable geometry. Infrastructure no longer meets expectations because the plethora of children arises with acuity. This does not allow teachers to achieve the educational objectives discounted. In addition, poor parents cannot register their children and use them for other purposes. The government's support through free preschool education, parents' awareness would be an appropriate solution for the future of this young nation.

**Keywords:** Maternal-Development- Psychomotor

### I. INTRODUCTION

The emergence of the specific human represents an original moment within nature. At the end of the maternal matrix, man is not yet a man, his humanity will be accomplished only in gestation in an educational matrix by learning on the one hand an articulate language and, on the other hand awareness. Thus, it will distinguish itself from the animal by its education which allows it to acquire all its maturity.

This is what is found in all societies where the child from an early age is subjected to an initiation during which he is called to become a man and above all to be a good citizen. This consists of transmitting the knowledge to the child in the "anal stage" [1] according to Sigmund Freud. That is to say, from the age of three, the age of curiosity or the child always asks the question of the why of things. This stage is a decisive step in the psychological life of the child because it is easy for him to remember the good or the bad. This is what Jean-Paul Sartre illustrated in his play the Flies. It is a young boy Oreste who decided to return to his hometown Argos to avenge his father Agamemnon murdered by his mother's lover Egisthe when he was still a child. Jupiter wanted to stop him, he replied: "This morning I saw my childhood for the last time" [2]. Finally, he killed him and took power in his father's place. This is why Erasmus, one of the theoreticians of pedagogy, considers the child as "a field which must be cultivated so that it can produce such and such a harvest according to the education that will be deposited" [3].

But this education, in part, will be taken into account by the State, as Plato already pointed out in his book IV of the Republic: "That a good leader must take charge of the education of children because they belong less to the parents than" in the state. Education is compulsory and given in public schools "[4]. This is confirmed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that "The child has the right to education and the State has an obligation to make primary education compulsory and free, of different forms of secondary and higher education accessible to every child according to the capacities of each child "[5].

It was precisely because of the concern of the United Nations after the Second World War to develop the moral precepts for the maintenance of international peace and security. These include the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which was established on 16 November 1945 in London, whose mission was to "create conditions Dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based on respect for shared values. It is through this dialogue that the world can come to comprehensive conceptions of sustainable development integrating respect for human rights, mutual respect and the reduction of poverty "[6]. Consequently, each Member State has an obligation to do everything possible to achieve this educational structure. Thus, the Republic of Benin, being a member of this international organization, has responded

favorably to this requirement, and has created preschool-primary, secondary, technical and university establishments. Notwithstanding, these establishments designed to train our children encounter some difficulties which prevent it from reaching its objectives. This is the purpose of this topic, which focuses on preschool in Benin. Our concern is to try to understand the importance of nursery education on children 3-5 years old? For this reason, the first definition of the concept will allow us to analyze certain psychological theories of the child in accordance with the nursery teaching in Benin, and then even the difficulties encountered by this school, finally, future of the institution.

## 2. Study Area



**Figure 1:** Map of the city of Cotonou

**Source:** <http://fanyi.baidu.com> Read the 1st March 2017

## II. MATERNAL DEFINITION

Kindergarten is defined as a school structure for children aged between 3-5 years. "The primary purpose of this instruction is to awaken and stimulate the physical, psychological and mental functions of children". This is what emerges from the opinion of some educational theorists.

### a- Classical View

If one refers to the founder of anthropology Socrates in this maxim " Know yourself ". Does this mean man being mortal is what he knows before seeking to know nature? This questioning went against the cosmogony of the pre-Socratic's. Disappointed by the political experience of his, which brought Socrates, focused all his science around man.

Thus, Socrates' teaching was based on a doctrine that the soul knows a pre-human existence when it is in the company of gods. Meanwhile, she had access to all the knowledge and truths. But when it incarnates the body, it loses all its intelligibility. For he says, "When the soul undertakes to do some research in concert with the Body, we see that it misleads it "[7]. To regain this knowledge, Socrates used two methods, namely "irony" and "maieutics" in order to awaken memories that were asleep in the soul of his interlocutor to more rationality. For irony consists in causing the interlocutor to discover his own errors himself. While, maieutic brings the interlocutor has found his own knowledge acquired but forgotten. This Socratic method that gives birth to spirits corresponds to pre-school education where children express the need to know everything.

Plato's later disciple of Socrates has taken up the ideas of his master that man is born with good ideas that crumble when the soul integrates the body. Unlike his predecessor, Plato uses education by reminiscence to bring his interlocutor to more rationality. How does this education take place?

According to Plato, the learning of number sciences first: arithmetic and geometry will enable them to know the dialectic which consists of contemplating the essence of things and not stopping at things in the making. Then, the music confirms to them the rhythm and the harmony which are the beautiful things. Thus, they will hate ugly things from their childhood because music remains conservative of virtue throughout their lives. Finally, gymnastics keeps their bodies in shape. "If our young men are well educated, they become reasonable men, they will understand of themselves all. For an education and honest instruction, when they are preserved from any alteration, create good naturalists who march towards the laws "[8]. While growing up, they will be cautious in their relationship with others. For this fact, "Such a man is clever to be a doctor to care for the citizens" [9].

It is classic to say that, the mind of the child must be trained in intelligence. For it will be able to conceptualize things, that is, to represent them in their absence instead of stopping at the vile appearance of meaning. Thus, for Plato the music or the song is a plausible message which especially allows the children of

this preschool age to endorse in order to produce what is pleasant. Experience has shown that children quickly assimilate beautiful songs and their angelic voices charm their ears. This is why the preschool curriculum is based on song, games and sport. One can say without that maternal education is a cornerstone for the psychomotor development of the child. What about modern conception?

#### **b- Modern Conception**

Throughout history, thinkers have constantly contradicted themselves in search of truth. This is how the question of man, from the time of antiquity to the present day, passes through the Middle Ages, in relation to their conception of the latter. Nevertheless, for some their common denominator remains the education of man in order to deprive him of his state of nature to make him, a being of culture.

By culture we mean the passage from the state of nature to the civil state by the transformation of nature as it pleases on the one hand. On the other hand, it is through the acquisition of knowledge that develops the intellectual, moral and physical capacities of man according to the norms of a given type of social system. Hence, Jean Jacques Rousseau asserted that "the good social institutions are those which know how to best denature man, to take away his absolute existence in order to give it a relative existence and to transport the self in the common unity; So that each individual no longer believes himself to be one, but part of unity, and is no more sensible than in the whole "[10].

It is precisely this which makes René Descartes say that "the child is a privileged place of overflowing imaginations, puerile but already insane ambitions, demands an education designed to guide, shape and regulate his life through permits and prohibitions "[11]. In order for the child to achieve this goal according to Nietzsche his mind must undergo three following steps through this metaphor: That the mind first is like a camel carrying the burden which is values and traditions with courage but without never think of getting rid of it. Arriving in the desert, he becomes a lion killing the dragon. The lion symbolizes the critical spirit of calling everything into question for the absolute, intangible, social values. The difference between the lion and the child is that the lion kills while for the child the critical spirit is a moment of doubt, questioning, astonishment, in a word the curiosity that drives him to seek to understand what surrounds him as Jean Piaget shows us "the four-year-old child has no knowledge of the reversibility of the situation" [12].

It is precisely from this perspective that in the second discourse on the origin of inequality among men Jean Jacques Rousseau said that "we are born sensitive and from birth we are affected by the objects that surround us. As soon as we are conscious of our sensations, we are disposed to seek out or to flee the objects which produce them first, according as they are agreeable or unpleasant to us"[13]. In other words, man is naturally good in the sense that man in the natural state, content with a biological life, is animated only by the feeling of self-love and pity. But it is the environment that transforms him because he has above him, an authority showing him the right path. This is a crucial moment in the life of the child. Therefore, one should not lie to him because it would constitute an irreparable error.

This is why the nursery school, which is responsible for the awakening of the children's minds independently of the parents, must make every effort to succeed in their training.

### **III. BENIN MATERNAL**

Kindergarten in Benin counts in 2011, a staff of 109,449 public and private schools [14]. It is composed first of administrative staff namely the Director, the manager and the teachers. Then learners who are mixed students. Secondly, the representative of the Parents' Association Student (APE) who supports the proper functioning of the centers and advocates at the disciplinary council for repeat pupils. The latter is elected at a general meeting by these peers.

This school consists of three sections: The first section concerns children between the ages of 2-3 years. The second section is reserved for 4-year-olds, and the third section is a cycle of 5-year-olds.

However, kindergarten has a specific curriculum that allows:

- To mobilize language in all its dimensions, that is to say (vocal-gestures-symbols)
- Acting, expressing, understanding through physical activity (sport)
- To act, to express oneself, to understand through the artistic activities (designs)
- Building the first tools to structure his thinking (logical)
- Explore the world (curiosity).

This is what has been emphasized by Plato that our young children must learn: arithmetic and geometry which will allow them to know the dialectic in order to transcend the appearance which is only the copy of the Being, and to grasp in the noetic world the essence of things which is truth. When she had the music, she gave them the rhythm and harmony that are the beautiful things. Growing up, they will hate ugly things because music remains conservative of virtue throughout their lives. Gymnastics will keep their bodies in shape.

It is precisely in this light that the nursery school in Benin plays an important role in shaping the personality of pre-school children for their socialization. For its main mission is to teach the child the

knowledge which is the acquisition of knowledge, the know-how which is the art of doing well, and the living knowledge that emanates from morality, a mode of good behavior in society. That is why she develops in the child her intellectual abilities, beginning with the awakening of this latent knowledge as Plato said by means of "reminiscence" In other words, through education, "the child develops oral language, discovers numbers, learns to play by reflecting and solving certain problems by recasting and memorizing" [15]. Consequently, this gives the child the urge to go to school to learn for his or her self-fulfillment in order to assert oneself in life. Genevieve Gueron in his book *Education without Frontiers* reinforced this thesis in these terms to promote the development of social equilibrium "the aim of all teaching is not only the transmission of knowledge, but also the formation of personality" [16]. But, what are the difficulties encountered by the kindergarten in Benin?

#### IV. DIFFICULTIES

The first difficulty of nursery schools in Benin is the disengagement of the State in this sector. For the most part, these are taken into account by private partners.

As a result, it has become a lucrative means and the criterion of age for recruitment falling into obsolete because it does not make the unanimity of the donors. Some make their entrance at two years, and, to be able to spend two years in preschool, before any admission to primary school mainly to the CI which often causes them harm because, the age requirement is six years instead of 4 years.

Moreover, there is a dysfunction between the urban areas and the interior of the country. Many children in rural areas can not benefit from this social offer of education. This is the main cause of the high rate of juvenile delinquency in Benin. Also, one can mention the financial difficulty of some deprived parents, who cannot enroll their children in these private schools, prefer to use them for other purposes.

As for urban areas, rather, infrastructure that no longer meets expectations. The problem of the plethora of children arises with acuteness. This does not allow teachers in the sector to achieve the expected educational objectives.

Secondly, applied pedagogy is obsolete in the sense that pupils rely solely on the knowledge of their teacher. The school is sorely lacking in modern logistical resources, such as: the right sporting area, computers, school transport that allow children to discover other heavens so that they can "rejuvenate spiritually" Expression of Gaston Bachelard. For, according to Bachelard, "scientific knowledge here is at least a double knowledge. It is at the same time sensitive intuition and intellectual intuition" [17].

To this end, limiting the field of action of the children of the maternal only to the transmission of knowledge by their teacher in the classroom is restricting the educational mission. Educating means giving the child access to culture. If they are based on knowledge, they must surpass it by the curiosity that is characteristic of three-year-old children reaching the anal stage according to Sigmund Freud. This is Paul Langevin quotes Rachel Cohen and Jean Meyer as saying "true culture is that which makes man open to everything that is not himself, to everything that goes beyond the narrow circle of his specialty" [18]. In other words, the prodigious evolution of the world has made our traditional constructions illusory, or the child was informed only through the channels of his teacher.

This idea has been highlighted by John Locke since the 17th century that, all our knowledge starts with our experience that raises no doubt. That is to say, today, apart from the class the teacher should make known to these students, nature.

On the other hand, we also note the aging of the supervisors of kindergarten contrary to those of the fundamental. The same is true of their recycling, in relation to the new pedagogy in order to reach the goal of the millennium which is only a lure. Let us not forget the absence of the material support of the "APE" for the good functioning of these schools despite the levies on the school fees of the patronage dividends. To make the environment, it is sufficient to refer to the principle of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### V. PROSPECTS

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, "the child has the right to education and the State has an obligation to make primary education compulsory and free" [19] from the country. Admittedly, "kindergarten welcomes children before compulsory education which begins at age 6" [20]. This training is very important because it gives the learning taste to our young children. Also, it develops in them, their intellectual and physical aptitudes. The framers do not have the right to error, as Jean Jacques Rousseau pointed out, because "Man is naturally good, it is the environment that transforms him" [21]. In other words, a bad education distorts the child, leads him to lie.

That is "a refusal of pure commitment, a refusal of the state represents the most serious symptom of evil of the century of the present youth" [22] said Berthe Reymond Rivier. That is to say, the government's support for this sector through free schooling, raising parents' awareness for pre-school education would be a guarantee for the future and the sustainability of this young nation.

Moreover, the implementation of the new technical data will provide the opportunity for these children to live at every moment the international reality. Similarly, transportation will enable them to discover other untapped areas of knowledge. This exit from education is punctuated with exercises of self-criticism. This is why education policy today is challenged by the challenge of globalization, which is defined as a major international gathering bringing together all countries to reflect on all areas involving their futures and also the Solidarity the exchange which must be made by a debate of ideas by rejecting the single thought.

The time is no longer for classical education to focus solely on the knowledge of the teacher, forgetting the relevance of communications networks especially in the computer field. Living on the margins of this, we will be an illiterate of the third millennium. This requires, among other things, an introduction to these modes of knowledge in order to control progress across international borders.

Many states recognize that "multicultural education should be able to meet both the imperatives of global integration" [23]. For this fact, the external contribution enriches the culture and promotes the unity of our planet. Luck is there, to make concrete an ideal of peace and fraternity. These are the goals set by the foundations of a current education that propose realization through effective actions. In the sense that they are created, a real space where young people can integrate social and economic life through a technique for manual activities. It is in this perspective that we must understand Karl Popper's maxim: "It is by ceasing to play the prophets that we will become the craftsmen of our destiny" [24].

## VI. CONCLUSION

Without pretending to have done an exhaustive work on kindergarten in Benin. We can say that nursery school is an intellectual center for the psychomotor development of children, and on a practical level it allows their socialization. For children enrolled in these centers spend half their time in the hands of their instructors rather than their parents.

In this respect, the government's contribution will not be the least in order to give pre-school children the opportunity to benefit from this social offer of education. To this end, the construction of infrastructures throughout the territory, the free schooling, the computing and rolling means, and the retraining of teachers to have qualified personnel will be the appropriate solutions to the challenges of this sector.

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