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Discussion post Early childhood education and teaching children is the most crucial aspect of education. Early childhood is the phase when children are most vulnerable not only to react to the myriad emotions of the adults but it is also the learning phase when they are able to imbibe the most important lesson of life – the discipline that is required in the social interaction within the society which serves as the basic module of gaining knowledge in all spheres of their childhood and adult life. Hence, various social scientists and philosophers like Montessori, Rousseau, Pestalozzi, Froebel etc. have postulated theories of teaching methodologies that would influence the learning processes of the children.
While Rousseau promoted the learning through interaction with the nature and experience, Pestalozzi asserted that children need activity based education so that they can come to their own conclusion, thus encouraging independent thoughts. Froebel, on the other hand, says that early education of children should take place in the home environment through educational games and object reality. Montessori’s educational process is the most popular teaching methodology that emphasizes learning ‘ first the education of the senses, then the education of the intellect’ (Montessori, 1912). Indeed, the play-way methodology of Montessori education is the most widely acclaimed way of teaching young children the fundamental principles of interaction with living and non living organisms. Hence, Montessori education prepares young children to become responsible adults through application of knowledge gained through experience in their daily life.
Discussion post 2
Education for all is the most relevant issue in the social fabric of society across the world. While it may be possible in under-developed countries and developing nations where there is rampant poverty, developed nations have progressed in the area by leaps and bound. The concept of ‘ public school’ is most popular amongst the elite class that thrives on the class difference. It has especially become quite controversial in the contemporary times, when rapid globalization has brought in pluralistic society, comprising of people coming from different culture, race, color and nationality. Consequently, the academia across the world, especially the educational curriculum needs to undergo far-reaching transformation so that our children can effectively meet the needs of the changing times.
Education serves as the most effective platform to introduce changes within the social fabric of countries across the world. The changing values necessitate development of a new social order which would not only embrace multi cultural values but help forge a universal bond that would transcend national and religious boundaries. Eminent educationalist, Gutak asserts that education must become a ‘ great economic equalizer that would reduce all class conflicts’ (Gutek, 2005, p. 224). Indeed, the reforms in the education system have become imperative to need the challenges of the evolving times.
Reference
Montessori, M. (1912). The absorbent mind. Translated from the Italian by Claude A. Claremont. New York: Dell Pub. Co.
Gutek, G. L. (2005). Historical and philosophical foundations of education: A biographical introduction (4th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.