

# U.P.S.C.

प्रश्न संख्या  
(Question No.)

इस भाग में कुछ  
न लिखें  
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in this part)

Child is the  
father of the man

A small young boy at the age of 7 stole a pencil from his friend. On reaching home, he displayed the pencil to his mom with pride. The mother, instead of scolding the boy applauded his action.

The boy got encouragement for his action. 15 years down the line, he became one of the most dreaded robber of the town.

The above incident highlights that had the mother realised that "child is father of man" and stopped him by scolding <sup>her son the</sup> ~~the~~ very first day, today her son would be in some respectable profession.

In this essay we will see what does the adage "child is the father of the man means". Then we will see various

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examples to justify the adage. we will also see if this adage is universal or there can be an exception. At last we will see how this adage can be used to make this world a better place to live in. So let's begin.

In the adage, child refers to a beginner, a novice who lacks experience. Man refers to an experienced person. So, the adage simply means that what a man will become in future is determined by what he is in his childhood.

Here, Man can also mean an experienced nation and child as a nation in its initial start of development. Similarly, this adage can be applied to mean child as the beginning of any process and man as the final end. So basically the end will be determined from the beginning.

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Having understood the meaning let's explore, why "child is the father of the man". A child at initial stage is just like a mud that can be shaped in any direction that we want to shape.

The child observes and learns from his surroundings. He initially forms beliefs. These beliefs after a period of time, gets strong and become a part of his value system. It is from these values that a child when he grows up takes decision.

As the child grows up, his values get strong and it becomes relatively difficult to change his values. Thus we can see that the basis on which a man behaves today was formed when he was a child and since the values are difficult to change now as a grown up man, we can say that truly child is the father of the man.

Understanding this, our ancestors and forefathers had designed the system of Varnashram where the child was moulded

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and trained to perform his desired activity when he grows up. Similarly, Tribals also have institution of Youth Dormitory where the child is socialized and made ready for his new roles, duties and functions. As a child a person learns, <sup>commits mistake</sup> ~~learns~~ and finally masters his duties in these institutions.

This mastery of activity was shown by Gandhi in India. But even our Gandhi was a child in South Africa. He committed mistake, learnt new things and finally from these learnings he designed the unique tool of satyagraha, Passive resistance, Civil Disobedience, struggle Truce struggle etc. Thus his experience as child in South Africa, made him an expert in India who using his moral principles overthrew the entire army of British.

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Similarly, we all know the story of Abraham Lincoln. As a child he suffered many setbacks - from losing elections to having a nervous breakdown. However he did not give up. He learnt the art of resilience, consistency, gratitude, never giving up etc.

This learning of him as a child was reflected when he finally became the president of USA. As an experienced man he strongly opposed slavery and led the Civil Disobedience movement with absolute courage and formidable spirit.

This formidable spirit can be also seen in the initial beginnings of India. The foundation of India <sup>as a child</sup> was based on the ideals of Justice, equality, secularism, liberty, democracy, fraternity, harmony. As a child, India

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had learnt how important  
democracy and self rule is. It  
learnt how unaccountable executive  
can destroy a nation economically,  
socially and politically.

This learning of  
India was reflected in the  
framing of India's constitution.  
Since as a child India had  
learnt and relearned, today as  
a Man India is the largest  
and the most mature democracy  
in the world.

This democracy in  
other South Asian nation  
like Myanmar, Pakistan lasted only  
for a short while as their  
foundation, beginning as a child  
was not based on strong  
values like India.

These strong ~~values~~  
values also marked the  
beginning of America after  
the American revolution. The

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Bill of rights ~~started~~ explicitly stated the importance of human rights. Hence Today as a mature and grown up nation, America stands to protect human rights throughout the globe.

Having seen examples to justify the adage, let us see if this can be applied universally.

We all know the story of Angulimala, how a robber turned into a devotee of Buddha. It was Buddha's love that converted Angulimala's evilness. Thus love can conquer and change a man (Angulimala), no matter what his childhood was (Robbery).

Similarly we <sup>all</sup> know how Ashoka gained throne. Various historical sources said he killed his 99 brothers. Here though he beginning as a child was violent, but when he grew up, he realised the importance of peace.

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~~Thus~~ Similarly, Japan after Meiji restoration started as an aggressive nation acquiring colonies in South east Asia. But after Hiroshima and Nagasaki attack, Japan realised that nuclear disarmament and peace is the only way to live in the world. Today as grown up mature state it propagates for complete nuclear disarmament like India.

Thus, due to some situations a man can be different from what he was as a child. However such situations are rare and an exception. Therefore we can say that the adage holds true in maximum of the cases. Let's dive into the importance of the adage in the current world.

Firstly, the importance of socialisation is well established in the adage.

Hence more focus needs to be



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given to inculcate value ~~that~~  
in a child. If a ~~child~~<sup>boy</sup> observes  
that both he and his sister  
are treated equally, he will learn  
the importance of gender equality.  
Secondly  
Similarly, a child's future  
potential in education is also  
determined from childhood. We  
have scientific evidence to prove  
that the initial 1000 days of  
child's nutrition and environment  
plays a significant role to  
determine the Intelligence quotient  
of the child. Realising this  
early childhood care and education  
has been made part of  
National education Policy.

Thirdly, the beginning  
of any process has to be  
just, equitable and fair. For  
instance, to successfully tackle  
climate change the notion of  
climate Justice has to be  
taken into consideration.

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The principle of Common but differentiated responsibility, polluters' pay principle needs to be strictly adhered to.

Lastly to make this planet a better place to live in we all need to forget the artificial borders and join our hands marking a new beginning. Now we are in crisis stage when we are learning how ~~so~~ humans' greed has given rise to problem of climate change, hunger, nuclear weapon etc. It's time that we all become mature as a grown up man to solve and tackle the future problems.

At last as a mature man we need to understand that we all are part of universal consciousness. The entire material

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World is a maya and is not  
the ultimate reality.

"Realising the spirit of  
universal consciousness, let us  
forget all our differences and  
metamorphose ourselves from  
a child (individualistic thinking)  
to a grown up man (universal  
acceptance). This will indeed  
mark a new beginning of  
the golden age of humanity."