CONTRASTING THE BEHAVIOR OF CHILDREN TODAY AND IN THE PAST

by:
Ancelma R. Columna
Teacher III, Pita Elementary School

The conduct of children has experienced a significant shift over the years, shaped by technological progress, societal shifts, and changing approaches to parenting. Historically, children were typically brought up with stricter rules and expectations, highlighting discipline, respect for authority, and adherence to norms. Nowadays, children are raised in a more open atmosphere that promotes self-expression, uniqueness, and creativity. These changes mirror the evolving values and priorities in contemporary society, which have transformed how young individuals act and engage with their surroundings.

A major distinction between previous and current generations is the impact of technology. Historically, kids devoted a significant portion of their leisure hours outside, participating in active play and direct social interactions. Board games, literature, and local events constituted the foundation of their amusement. Conversely, today's children are heavily engaged with digital technology, as smartphones, tablets, and video games play a crucial role in their everyday routines. Although technology provides educational advantages and connectivity, it is also linked to shorter attention spans, decreased physical activity, and a loss of conventional social skills.

Parenting styles have changed over time, significantly affecting children's behavior. Traditionally, parents and teachers prioritized obedience and discipline, frequently using rigorous techniques to uphold rules. Contemporary parenting, on the other hand, often emphasizes transparent communication and emotional backing. Nowadays, parents are more inclined to motivate their children to share their emotions

and viewpoints, promoting a sense of uniqueness. Although this method offers benefits like enhancing self-confidence, opponents contend that it could result in diminished resilience and accountability in certain children.

Social standards and perceptions have evolved, influencing the actions of children even more. Historically, cultural and family frameworks frequently fostered a deep sense of community and collective accountability. Children were anticipated to help with household tasks and show respect for their elders. Currently, there is a stronger focus on individual satisfaction and independence, which can occasionally lead to children being less connected to community values. The emergence of consumerism and social media has brought new pressures, including the craving for material goods and the need for approval via online platforms, which previous generations did not experience.

Although the behavioral variations between contemporary children and those from earlier generations demonstrate the natural progression of society, they also underscore the difficulties and possibilities of today's world. Finding a harmonious balance between welcoming advancement and maintaining cherished traditions is essential for nurturing well-rounded people. By recognizing these generational distinctions, parents, educators, and policymakers can collaborate to raise children who are both resilient and anchored in enduring values.

References:

Twenge, J. M. (2017). iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy.

Turkle, S. (2015). Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age.

Elkind, D. (2007). The Hurried Child: Growing Up Too Fast Too Soon.