



**Themes of learning – an approach towards holistic learning  
model realization at early childhood level**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	i
LIST OF TABLES .....	v
LIST OF FIGURES .....	vi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND CODES .....	vii
DECLARATION .....	viii
ABSTRACT.....	ix
1. INTRODUCTION .....	1
Purpose of the Study .....	4
Chapter’s Overview.....	5
2. METHOD.....	6
Research Methodology.....	6
Research Design .....	7
Method.....	7
Sample Size .....	9
Steps of Execution .....	9
Data Collection.....	9
Objectives .....	10
3. LITERATURE REVIEW.....	11
Episode 1- Data Collection .....	11
Waldorf Model of Early Childhood Learning.....	11
High Scope Model of Early Childhood Learning .....	16
Reggio Emilia Model of Early Childhood Learning.....	23
Montessori Model of Early Childhood Learning .....	28

	ii
Jean Piaget Cognitive Development Theory .....	37
Lev Vygotsky Social Development Theory .....	40
Benjamin Bloom Taxonomy of Learning Domains .....	43
John Dewey Experiential Learning Theory .....	44
Erik Erikson Developmental Stages Theory .....	46
John Watson Behavioral Theory .....	47
Abraham Maslow Hierarchy of Needs Theory .....	48
Mohammad Ghazali Ideology .....	51
Abdul Rehman Ibn-Khaldun Ideology .....	57
Divine Ideology .....	61
Avicenna Ideology .....	67
Sadra Sherazi Approach .....	75
Episode 2 - Data Synthesis .....	81
Episode 3 - Data Arrangement .....	91
Episode 4 - Data Ordering .....	100
4. PERCEPTION REVIEW .....	110
Episode 1- Data Collection .....	111
Respondent 1 Views .....	111
Respondent 2 Views .....	112
Respondent 3 Views .....	114
Respondent 4 Views .....	116
Episode 2 - Data Synthesis .....	120
Episode 3 - Data Arrangement .....	122
Episode 4 - Data Ordering .....	124
5. DISCUSSION .....	127
Particulars of Codes, Concepts & Themes .....	128
Themes of Learning .....	130

	i
Learning Paradigm.....	130
Sources of Acquiring Knowledge.....	131
Fundamental Roles in Learning.....	132
Directed Learning .....	133
Learning Milieu.....	134
Learning Objectives .....	135
Learning Outcomes .....	136
Relation Matrix .....	137
Learning Methods .....	138
Learning Aspects .....	139
Findings in Literature Review and Expert Perceptions.....	140
6. CONCLUSION.....	142
Accomplishments .....	143
Significance of the Study .....	147
Limitations of the Study .....	147
Future Recommendations .....	148
REFERENCES.....	149
APPENDICES.....	1
Appendix 1.....	1
Appendix 2.....	1
Respondent 1 Credentials.....	1
Respondent 2 Credentials.....	1
Respondent 3 Credentials.....	1
Respondent 4 Credentials.....	2
Appendix 3.....	1

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 <i>Coding of the Waldorf Model</i> .....	12
Table 2 <i>Coding of the High Scope Model</i> .....	17
Table 3 <i>Coding of the Reggio Emilia Model</i> .....	23
Table 4 <i>Coding of the Montessori Model</i> .....	29
Table 5 <i>Coding of the Jean Piaget Theory</i> .....	38
Table 6 <i>Coding of the Lev Vygotsky Theory</i> .....	41
Table 7 <i>Coding of the Benjamin Bloom Taxonomy</i> .....	43
Table 8 <i>Coding of the John Dewey Theory</i> .....	45
Table 9 <i>Coding of the Erik Erikson Theory</i> .....	47
Table 10 <i>Coding of the John Watson Theory</i> .....	48
Table 11 <i>Coding of the Abraham Maslow Theory</i> .....	49
Table 12 <i>Coding of the Mohammad Ghazali Ideology</i> .....	52
Table 13 <i>Coding of the Abdul Rehman Ibn-Khaldun Ideology</i> .....	57
Table 14 <i>Coding of the Divine Ideology</i> .....	62
Table 15 <i>Coding of the Avicenna Ideology</i> .....	68
Table 16 <i>Coding of the Mullah Sadra Sherazi Approach</i> .....	75
Table 17 <i>Data Synthesis</i> .....	81
Table 18 <i>Data Arrangement</i> .....	91
Table 19 <i>Data Ordering</i> .....	100
Table 20 <i>Coding of Respondent 1 Views</i> .....	111
Table 21 <i>Coding of Respondent 2 Views</i> .....	112
Table 22 <i>Coding of Respondent 3 Views</i> .....	114
Table 23 <i>Coding of Respondent 4 Views</i> .....	116
Table 24 <i>Respondent Data Synthesis</i> .....	120
Table 25 <i>Respondent Data Arrangement</i> .....	122
Table 26 <i>Respondent Data Ordering</i> .....	124
Table 27 <i>Data Summarization</i> .....	128
Table 28 <i>Literature and Perception Review</i> .....	141

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: <i>Themes - Arrangement</i> .....	143
Figure 2: <i>Themes - Engagement</i> .....	144
Figure 4: <i>Proposed Learning Model</i> .....	145
Figure 3: <i>Themes - Achievement</i> .....	145
Figure 5: <i>Cyclic Representation of Learning Model</i> .....	146

## **DECLARATION**

I declare that this thesis, which I submit to the School of Professional Advancement, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, for the fulfillment of award of the degree in Masters in Science (School Leadership and Management), is solely my own and original work.

In the best of my knowledge, this thesis contains no material or literature previously published or written except with the due reference that is acknowledged in the text.

Mohib Raza

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## **ABSTRACT**

Learning is an innate process that begins with the child's birth. Early years of an adult's life, termed early childhood, are the most important and fundamental years that lay the foundations of learning, development and hence a person's personality. What could be the model of learning for this sensitive period of child that can address all his developmental needs? To comprehend and understand learning, many theories, approaches and models have been proposed over the last century or so. These theories and models explain learning in different perspectives which are unique in themselves. This research work reviews the related literature for such theories and models, identifying and opting for 16 such approaches of different era and perspectives. Initially 298 observational notes and memos as codes were synthesized into 83 concepts. Later, following transition through 4 episodes of data organization, these were analyzed to identify themes and commonalities, present in the different learning models and theories. Islamic approach towards learning has also been discussed. 10 themes were identified as a result of data analysis. These factors and themes, related to early childhood learning, were then integrated and proposed in a form of a consolidated model for a holistic learning in early childhood.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Childhood is the leading and most vital developmental phase of an individual. According to (Elman, 1993), individual's greatest learning occurs in this time of childhood and a successful learning depends on starting small. This period shapes the foundation of child's profound personality and lifelong learning aptitude. Early attention and care has long lasting consequences on child's development, capability to regulate emotion and ability to learn (Shore, 1997).

Provision of appropriate consideration to child's care, development and education in this early childhood phase provides the opportunity to evade learning difficulties and personality problems in future, as well as provides the solid foundation for success in further education and helps in realizing the meaning of life in the later stages (Shonkoff & Phillips, 2000).