

A DISCUSSION ON BASIC VIRTUES AND CRISIS IN THE CHILD'S DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES

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ABSTRACT

Through the ages, the African tradition has ensured children are exposed to the right values as they grow up. This is important in bringing out well balanced children and brings to fore the manner of handling young people in the various stages of growth before adulthood. The stages generate specific virtues and present some crisis which, if not resolved, will negatively affect the outcome of all handling of future stages of development including learning the values taught in specific stages. The purpose of the study is to examine the virtues generated and crisis presented in each stage of growth as explained by Erikson's psychosocial theory. The objective is to bring out the criticality of the virtues and the crises. The paper argues that parenting should appreciate and embrace the sensitivity of each child with regard to readiness to progress to next growth stage. This area has not received much attention among African researchers even though the knowledge of the virtues and crisis in each stage is beneficial to parenting. This article is a part of a larger study on parenting.

Keywords: Virtues, Crisis, Child's growth, Stages of Growth, Psychosocial Theory.