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Barbie and Toys

Toys are something that remains a vital part of children's life. Children love to play with toys and the main aim of these toys is to make children busy and active. Capitalists produce toys in such a way that can be attractive for children. However, the way gender role is described in the society, toys are also classified for boys and girls separately. These toys have a great influence on children's psychological development. The main purpose of the essay is to understand the role and influence of toys on the development of the children. It is crucial to understand because children are the future of the nation and their health whether physical or psychological matters a lot.

Barbie doll is a famous toy meant for girls. Parents expect their girls to play with dolls while boys with cars or others like French toys that prepare the child to act in a certain way. However, these toys are teaching children such things that are not good for their futures. For instance, portray of the Barbie dolls is developed in such a way that is totally different from the actual world's girls. The influence of the Barbie doll is alarming for the American girls. An article indicates that white girls want to look like a Barbie doll. Barbie doll means perfect figure with long legs, thin waist, beautiful hair, and big chests. This is the image of the ideal girl for most of the girls in their early adulthood. This imagination is making white girls more conscious of their bodies and appearance. They wanted to be 7 feet 7 inches with fair color and 100-pound weight. In other words, "The ideal girl was a living manifestation of the Barbie doll," (Quindlen). However, black girls show the opposite behavior. Black children are less influenced by the toys they are more realistic than most of the white children. These girls are more confident with their black color, weight, and body shape. On the other hand, 90% of white girls try to lose weight where 60% of them are already with normal weight. It indicates that a toy "Barbie doll" is destroying the psychological behavior of the young girls. They are living more in imagination than in the real world.

Similarly, boys are influenced by the Japan toys that always produce in such a way that each toy teaches a specific aspect of life. Japanese made such toys to teach the pattern of society at an early age. However, it has a negative impact as well. The impact is that these toys are teaching children in the age when they are unable to question or show reasoning towards the things. As a result, they are becoming more like users than creators. The power of creativity and productivity is decreasing due to these toys and children are just becoming used to behavior that they learn from these Japanese toys. These toys are chemical in substance and color that do not give pleasure and therefore have no posthumous life for the child (Barthes and Lavers). Therefore, producers, as well as parents, should take these things into account and should decrease the type of toys that affect the psychological behavior of the children.

The bottom line is that the Barbie doll and toys were initially made for playing and making children active. However, its influence is becoming greater and it is affecting the psychological behavior of the children. Children are influenced by these toys in such a way that they have followed the world of imagination and neglecting the reality of life.

**Work Cited**

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Quindlen, Anna. “Opinion | Public & Private; Barbie At 35.” *The New York Times*, 10 Sept. 1994. *NYTimes.com*, https://www.nytimes.com/1994/09/10/opinion/public-private-barbie-at-35.html.