Parenting Fellow: Sai Durgeshwari Rajandiran

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Sai Durgeshwari holds a master’s degree in Human Development and Psychology from the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and a bachelor’s degree in Linguistics and English from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Presently, Durgesh is an evaluation specialist for a global education consultancy, Cognition Learning Group in Malaysia.

Project
Research, Design, and Development of a Parenting Knowledge Hub for the Global Initiative to Support Parents

Sabine Rakotomalala
World Health Organization (WHO)
Parenting Knowledge Hub

By Sai Durgeshwari Rajandiran

Mentors:
Dr. Rumaya Juhari, Putra University Malaysia (UPM)
Sabine Rakotomalala, World Health Organization (WHO)
Global Initiative to Support Parents (GISP)

It is an interagency collaboration between five core partners:

- Early Childhood Development Action Network (ECDAN)
- Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children
- Parenting for Lifelong Health (PLH)
- UNICEF
- World Health Organization (WHO)

Initially formed during the COVID-19 pandemic to increase global support for parents

Objective of GISP:

To urgently increase awareness and action in support of parents and to scale-up parenting support programs to all families around the world.
GISP Theory of Change for Parenting Support

Target audience:
People interested to learn more about parenting but are not actively working in parenting such as:
- Policymakers
- Program implementers
- Researchers

Knowledge Product:
Narration of the Theory of Change that also functions as a Parenting Knowledge Hub
Node 4: Promotion of autonomy and resilience

Autonomy is the ability of the child to fulfil their own wants and needs. Research suggests that children exhibit autonomy to maintain an integrated sense of self and mastery of their surroundings. Autonomy in a nurturing environment is good for the child to discover new things about themselves and the world with mild and infrequent stress, known as ‘positive stress’, which is essential for the child’s overall development.

Resilience, on the other hand, is the ability of the child to respond to current or future challenges using their adaptive capacity at a given time in a given context. Protective factors in the environment significantly contribute to children’s ability to process and overcome adversities.

Caregivers can promote both resilience and autonomy by building supportive relationships that act as protective social and emotional barriers for the child. In a scaffolded environment, the child is able to lead their own learning of resilient behaviours with a sense of self-efficacy. Autonomy and resilience are especially important skills to foster in humanitarian settings.
How does the Parenting Knowledge Hub benefit our target audience?

Sample target audience

- Advisor to the Minister of Health and lead designer of a comprehensive post-natal intervention
- Student leader of a grassroots organization to support refugee families resettle in a new community
- Education specialist in a low-resource setting who is creating informal learning modules for teen parents

All of them:

- Are involved in the design or delivery of programs targeting parents
- Have technical experience in fields related to parenting, but not parenting itself
- Would benefit from evidence across different sectors and across the life course that demonstrates the impact of parenting support programs across multiple outcomes
- May want to access the original scholarly sources to prepare their deliverables
Timeline of Activities

- **September 2022**: Scope global parenting resources & map evidence
- **November 2022**: Expand each bullet point on the ToC
- **January 2023**: Collect feedback from my mentors
- **February 2023**: Collect feedback from GISP Technical Working Group
- **March 2023**: Produce the final draft
- **June 2023**: Publish content on GISP website