



UPBRINGING CHILDREN IN 2021 AND BEYOND: CHALLENGES FOR PARENTS

CASE STUDY/INSIGHT

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Raising of children is a very challenging and important responsibility of parents. The methods of upbringing children changes with time and generation. There was a time when there were multiple children to parents and families were of joint type with so many people living together. Raising children during those times were entirely different from that of now. Parents and teachers were very strict during those days and children would be beaten up and given punishments, if they do mistakes or wrong things. But these physical punishments and beating up of children are not done today. Also, they cannot be done since it is illegal. Section 17 of the RTE Act, 2009 imposes bar on corporal punishment of children. With the generation gap and change of time, the way children are brought up also has changed. So, the big question that raises here is, "How to bring up children in the right way in this digitalized generation?"

The right way to raise children is by parents befriending their kids. Parents should come down to the level of children, listen and understand their emotions and feelings. Parents should have a friendly approach towards their children. By doing so, children will tend to become closer with their parents and understand their parents emotions as well. So when parents establish a friendly relationship with their kids, mutual understanding and bonding occurs. By this approach, children will obey their parents and act accordingly. This will reduce complications in parenting and help in prevailing of happiness in the family.

Parents should not compare their childhood period with this generation's childhood. Most parents have this habit of telling their kids, "When I was in your age, I used to work hard and studied in street lights but you are living a comfortable life". Parents should understand that lifestyle has advanced and comparing two different generations has no use. Well, parents can tell their children the story of their childhood and about the situations that prevailed during that period. But comparing shouldn't be done.

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We cannot neglect the fact that generation gap of age and technology exist between the parents and children. To overcome this generation gap, parents should understand their children's' mind set and explain them the risks and dangers associated with digitalization in the way that children will understand. By doing so, children will also try to understand the concerns of parents and act accordingly. Following a friendly approach with the children is the only way by which children can be brought in the right way. Dominating role of parents will not work out with this generation kids. Teachers also have a significant role in upbringing of children. Teachers can facilitate in upbringing of children in friendly and right way. Parents should build a healthy relationship with teachers and consult with them regarding the child's behaviour and upbringing.



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The issue of single child has also been increasing. Parents are worried about the behavioural effects of the single child. The single child will not have a sibling to play or share their feelings with. In several cases, parents with single child gives excessive freedom to their child and even prevent their school teachers to scold them when they do mistakes. In other words, in most of the cases the children are not very much adaptive, which is not a healthy parenting approach.

Parents should establish a relationship with the children in such a way that the kids share everything with the parents. If the child has an open relationship with parents and is in the grip of parents, then parents need not worry about the child. Upbringing of the children depends on how parents mould them.

