



Parenting and moral values development in children

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Abstract

In child development parents play a major role. Responsibility of the parent to impart the child to various aspects of the development in early stages lies in the hands of parents. One such aspect is teaching moral values. The parents also learn through this journey of parenting. A child learns values first from the family and next from the other environment in which he or she interacts. So, a major responsibility beholds in the hands of parents. Various Indian literatures have mentioned about the role of parents in teaching values. These literatures have even stated on the cognitive pattern of the child due to parenting influence. The parenting style which also discusses the influence of the values learnt by the child shows the responsibilities of the parenting. Parenting plays a significant importance in teaching moral values to the child.

Keywords: Parenting style, values, responsibility, Indian literature, autonomy, supportive

Introduction

A child's first teacher is his parent, chosen by nature. The four primary domains of development important to a child's wellbeing are physical development, intellectual development, language development and social development. Parents have an important role in all these areas of development.

Social and emotional development is largely guided by the development of a moral code. Children learn acceptable and unacceptable behaviors in their environment by picking up social cues available to them through their experiences.

Values play a major role in shaping personality and behavior in one's life. Values are built from the early ages of one's life and it is along with them forever. It is very vital throughout life and plays an important role in the kind of work we select as a career.

Methodology

This research study was performed after reviewing many published articles, research papers online from PubMed, google, google scholars, NCRB, online books and books. The study represents information related to parenting and parenting methods to meet the research goals.

Teaching Values

Teaching children's moral values from an early age is very important. It should be taught at home and school. Values should be taught to children and this will be like the tool chisel used by the sculpture to make a statue. The value will help children decide what is right or wrong in their life. The value learnt will also help the child deal with their personal life challenges. Values lay the foundation to understand the individual's attitude and behavior. It also influences the perception of the individual and how he values others. Values give the ultimate happiness of achievement, the path they have used to achieve their goals in life.

Values are guiding principles of behavior which are regarded as desirable, important and held in high esteem by

a society in which an individual lives'. Values guide us on our interaction with others like friends, family, professional areas. It reflects our spirituality, our character.

Moral values are those virtues which make a human being. It gives us goodness and if we use them, it gives us happiness. Values develop a supportive climate, ethical skills, apprenticeship instructions.

Values build character (kindness, humanity, courage, compassion etc.). It helps them decide what is right and wrong. It changes their perception of the world (children with high moral values will not stand still when an injustice is happening). It determines their adult behavior. It counters bad influence from their peers (they can handle peer pressure very well). Kids who grow with strong moral values are more secure in themselves. It helps them cope with difficult situations. It boosts self-confidence.

A main function of morality is to form basic social behavior. Research suggests moral values may be divided into two types: binding values, which maintain behavior in groups, and individualizing values which improves personal rights and freedoms

Teaching moral values is an uphill task which involves parenting style. Moral development in children is multidimensional which includes security and warmth. It also includes practices like discipline, rewards and parent child conversation.

Parents have an important role in providing and regulating these life changing experiences. Though children are natural learners, they will also need help and encouragement from others, especially parents. Parents provide a 'structure' to their children. They teach them values. They give guidance to children in understanding and following rules, which helps them to change, grow and mature.

Teaching moral values is complex and involves moral affect like empathy, guilt, forgiveness. Teaching moral cognition to children develops moral reasoning, perspective taking, values and identity related issues. Parents need to be aware about the transaction they do in this process of teaching and

the culture of the family, country plays an important role. Parenting has a great deal of diversity among families. Cultural backgrounds play a major role in bringing up the children in a family. *Our culture defines* a pattern of social norms, values, language, and behavior shared by individuals and parents are affected by this culture. When it comes to self-regulation, parenting approaches vary across cultures concerning promoting attention, compliance, delayed gratification, executive function, and effortful control. Changes happening with different cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic status, and single-parent families are some of the factors that determine a variety of parenting styles among families.

Every parent has a different kind of approach in handling their children. A child's morals, principles, and conduct are generally established through this bond. Parents need to show warmth towards their children while teaching values because this supports them emotionally and the self-esteem of the child develops well. In the same way control is also vital because the child develops self-control. Such parental control and power need to be exerted with reason and firmness in order for the child to develop autonomous discipline. Parents need to teach the children about the binding and individual values with real time. For example, at home they can teach to invite the neighbors and follow the table manners, let them learn to be independent and courageous. People's behavioral concepts in situations, the importance they afford moral values may change according to whom they are with that particular moment and binding values help regulate communal behavior.

It is the duty of the parents to give food not just for the physical body, but give food for the mind also. It is a duty of the parents to give healthy food to the mind. It is the responsibility of the parents to make sure that the food does not poison the mind and it also should not create sickness of the mind. Just as food is given to the child in the womb from day one, the mind is also fed from day one.

Parents should inculcate a strong sense of space consciousness in their children as early as possible which will enhance them as a better person and a more acceptable member of the society. Early teachings will develop a strong belief and perception and make them more responsible individuals. While teaching Parents need to demonstrate warmth and incorporate both autonomy-supportive, dominant and directive communication style. For example, parents need to be assertive that lying is never acceptable and explain why lying is problematic also.

Few references from Indian literature from Thiru Kural, Nala Diyar and Mahabharata

Kural 67 chapter

Kural in Tamil

தந்தை மகற்காற்றும் நன்றி அவையத்து
முந்தி இருப்பச் செயல்.

Transliteration: Thandhai mgarkatru nandri avaiyathu
Mundhi iruppach seyal.

Meaning: The duty of a father towards his children is to give them a head start in knowledge over the best of scholars.

Explanation: The greatest favour that the father can do to his son, is to Impart him with the best of knowledge, habits,

character and values and make him stand tall in the courts of the scholarly and learned people.

The same thoughts have been reflected by Ponmudiyar (a Tamil poetess, from sangam period) through a mother who says,

ஈன்று புறந்தருதல் என் தலைக்கடனே!

சான்றோன் ஆக்குதல் தந்தைக்குக் கடனே!

Eendru purantharudhal enthalaik kadane

Saandron aakudhal thanthaikku kadane

Dr.

Meaning

" It is my duty to bring a healthy child into this world, and to make him learned, knowledgeable and disciplined is the father's duty."

The same thought is adapted in the 134th verse of Naladiyar

நாலடியார் 134

வைப்புழிக் கோட்படா வாய்த்தீயின்

கேடில்லை

மிக்க சிறப்பின் அரசர் செறினவ்வார்

எச்சம் எனவொருவன் மக்கட்குச் செய்வன

விச்சைமற் றல்ல பிற. 134

Meaning

From the place in which it is stored up it cannot be stolen. It cannot suffer any harm even though to that place fire should come or then shared /given to someone. Though very glorious kings rage, they cannot captivate it. Therefore wisdom, and nothing else, is what one who intends to lay up an inheritance for his children should acquire.

Motherhood is a great responsibility. A mother can create a positive mindset in the child. The great Epic Mahabharata gives this teaching through the parenting styles of Gandhari, Duryodhana's mother and Kunti, mother of the Pandavas.

Gandhari had an unhealthy competitive mindset, which she passed on to her son. She encouraged Duryodhana to fight an ot adharmic battle. Kunti had an "accepting" mindset, accepting life as it is. She imparted the same mind set to her five children. The Pandavas focus on self-improvement, while accepting whatever life offers them. Kunti taught them to adjust with any situation and live a life of sharing and sacrifice.

Teaching values to children

A child learns moral and prosocial behavior can be learnt indirectly through parental style. Parents while teaching values should follow by themselves and demonstrate before children how they are following. Children with such parenting style are more committed towards a particular issue than parents who don't demonstrate values which they preach to their children.

Parents should inculcate a strong sense of space consciousness in their children as early as possible which will enhance them as a better person and a more acceptable member of the society. Early teachings will develop a strong belief and perception and make them more responsible individuals.

Parents can use strength-based approach in teaching values to their children. Parents can focus on the child's skills, abilities, character, traits or talents. Strength has 3 key elements like performance, energy, and high use. Performance refers to "being good at something", energy refers to "feeling good doing it" and high use refers to "choosing to do it". Strength based parenting will help in

increasing competence, self-assurance and happiness of the child.

It develops psychological processes which are used to support strength development like mindset, management, role modeling, scaffolding and proximal developmental practice. Mindset management helps in encouraging a 'growth mindset' (a belief that personal qualities can be modified) by discarding a fixed mindset which views qualities as static and unchangeable. To do this parent should have a growth mindset. Role Modeling in a way tells parents to display behavior which helps the child to develop his strengths. If particular strength is absent in a parent, they can expose the child to strength helpers such as teachers, tutors and accomplished people who possess the same strength.

Parenting Styles

Different researchers have grouped parenting styles into three, four, five, or more psychological constructs. Authoritarian, Authoritative, Permissive, Uninvolved. The children's moral value depends on the approach of how parents raise their children

Authoritarian

This type of parenting style tends to have a one-way mode of communication where the parents create strict rules that enable the child to obey. The children are not allowed to argue or negotiate, the parents expect the children to uphold these standards without errors, children will be given punishment for mistakes.

The moral value shown by the children with authoritarian parents will usually be the most well-behaved in the room because of the significance of misbehaving. They are able to obey the precise instructions required to reach a goal. Besides, this parenting style can result in children who have higher levels of aggression and also be shy, socially inept, and unable to make their own decisions, their aggression remains uncontrolled as they are unable to manage anger without proper guidance.

Authoritative parenting

This type of parent normally progresses close, cultivating a strong relationship with their children. Parents enable and encourage the children to have clear guidelines for their expectations and enlighten their reasons connected with disciplinary actions independently. Disciplinary methods in this parenting style enable support instead of punishment but children and parents need a lot of patience and effort. The moral value in this parenting style enables the child to be more responsible, confident, and able to self-regulate. They can easily manage their negative emotions more effectively, which leads to better social outcomes.

Permissive Parenting

Permissive parents tend to be warm, loving, fostering and have minimal expectations. They impose limited demands and rules towards their children. The moral value in this parenting style results in rare uses of discipline. They act more like friends than parents. They can be irresponsible, demanding, selfish, and have a lot of liberty in deciding their bedtime, if or when to do homework and watching television and mobile phones.

Uninvolved parenting

Uninvolved parenting, sometimes referred to as neglectful parenting, tends to give a lot of freedom to the children and stays out of their decisions and they are generally separated from their child's life. The moral value in this parenting style results when the child grows older, they will probably be affected by other aspects such as their academics, culture, job, and social life.

Teaching moral values to children from early age is very important and the approach used to teach them is also important. Children have to be taught moral values through reasoning skills for analyzing ethical decisions through discussions from early cognitive development stages.

Conclusion

Thus, the biggest assets that parents can give their child is knowledge, values, discipline and the wisdom to use all these judiciously. Values once learnt at early stages are difficult to forget. So parenting is a responsibility of creation, nourishing, learning, teaching, caring. As parents we play different roles and responsibilities, but parents need to be aware that they are role model for their children and act responsibly in parenting. As parents we making errors and is quite common but we need to learn and be aware of our errors, make the necessary changes in us, so that we be a better individual and teacher to our children.

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