

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

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Annotation: *To form the mentally, spiritually, psychologically stability of child, there should be given equal amount of attention, affection and upbringing from both parents. As the approaches that men and women towards parenting are wholly different from each other's, so do the traits, qualities that child take from them. Each of parent has their own irreplaceable position in the upbringing of child, therefore when it happens to be lack of either parent involvement, there will be profoundly visible impact on child's overall development.*

Key Words: *upbringing, child, parent, parental, future, prosperity, father, mother, offspring, encouraging, relationship, mental, psychology, personality, behavior, parenting.*

There is a proverb that says „as you sow, so shall you reap,, which plainly means future consequences are inevitably shaped by present actions. The child is like a sponge that can easily, unconsciously absorb every single minor behavior, attitude of yours. Moreover, they can be tremendously affected by the shortcomings, any negative energy that parents give off while bringing them up. For the child to have proper intellectual functioning, emotional, mental stability, he/she must feel the engagement of both male and female presence through the overall process of becoming one whole individual. The role mother and father is undeniably crucial in the upbringing of child to create healthy parent-to-child relationship, besides to make them ready and prepared to every phase of their life, in a word, to build an individual that can be a good asset on global scale. It is said that father is breadwinner and the head of the family, so he is one who should work hours and hours even without taking his time to be with his family. Therefore majority of fathers who are responsible for contributing sense of confidence and security, helping the child to regulate his/her own behavior are less involved with their child. Which means in the family with less interacted father, the children tend to have less emotional security, self-esteem in a way. On the other hand, mothers the ones who share affection, kindness, delicateness, gracefulness, softheartedness to the atmosphere of family. On the top of that fathers are more likely to be straightforward and little quick tempered, in some cases cold-blooded towards problems or thin and thick of life, so they teach the child the right way to handle any situation with calmness.

v A father's value is tremendous. That's why it is so important to help fathers realize the important contributions they can make.

Research shows that children in father-absent homes account for:

*71% of all high school dropouts

*90% of homeless and runaway children

*63% of youth suicides

When fathers are involved, their children are:

**2 times more likely to go to college*

**80% less likely to spend time in jail*

**75% less likely to experience teen pregnancy [1]*

63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes (U.S. Dept. Of Health/Census) – 5 times the average.

90% of all homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes – 32 times the average.

85% of all children who show behavior disorders come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average. (Center for Disease Control)

80% of rapists with anger problems come from fatherless homes –14 times the average. (Justice & Behavior, Vol. 14, p. 403-26)

71% of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes – 9 times the average. (National Principals Association Report)

Father Factor in Education – Fatherless children are twice as likely to drop out of school.

Children with Fathers who are involved are 40% less likely to repeat a grade in school.

Children with Fathers who are involved are 70% less likely to drop out of school.

Children with Fathers who are involved are more likely to get A's in school.

Children with Fathers who are involved are more likely to enjoy school and engage in extracurricular activities.

75% of all adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes – 10 times the average.

Father Factor in Drug and Alcohol Abuse – Researchers at Columbia University found that children living in a two-parent household with a poor relationship with their father are 68% more likely to smoke, drink, or use drugs compared to all teens in two-parent households. Teens in single mother households are at a 30% higher risk than those in two-parent households.

70% of youths in state-operated institutions come from fatherless homes – 9 times the average. (U.S. Dept. of Justice, Sept. 1988)

85% of all youths in prison come from fatherless homes – 20 times the average. (Fulton Co. Georgia, Texas Dept. of Correction)

Father Factor in Incarceration – Even after controlling for income, youths in father-absent households still had significantly higher odds of incarceration than those in mother-father families. Youths who never had a father in the household experienced the highest odds. A 2002 Department of Justice survey of 7,000 inmates revealed that 39% of jail inmates lived in mother-only households. Approximately 46% of jail inmates in 2002 had a previously incarcerated family member. One-fifth experienced a father in prison or jail.

Father Factor in Crime – A study of 109 juvenile offenders indicated that family structure significantly predicts delinquency. Adolescents, particularly boys, in single-parent families were at higher risk of status, property and person delinquencies. Moreover, students attending schools with a high proportion of children of single parents are also at risk. A study of 13,986 women in prison showed that more than half grew up without their father. 42% grew up in a single-mother household and 16% lived with neither parent.

Father Factor in Child Abuse – Compared to living with both parents, living in a single-parent home doubles the risk that a child will suffer physical, emotional, or educational neglect. The overall rate of child abuse and neglect in single-parent households is 27.3 children for every 1,000, whereas the rate of overall maltreatment in two-parent households is 15.5 for every 1,000.

Daughters of single parents without a Father involved are 53% more likely to marry as teenagers, 711% more likely to have children as teenagers, 164% more likely to have a pre-marital birth and 92% more likely to get divorced themselves.

Adolescent girls raised in a 2 parent home with involved Fathers are significantly less likely to be sexually active than girls raised without involved Fathers.

43% of U.S. children live without their father [U.S. Department of Census]

90% of homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes. [U.S. D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census]

80% of rapists motivated with displaced anger come from fatherless homes. [Criminal Justice & Behavior, Vol. 14, pp. 403-26, 1978]

71% of pregnant teenagers lack a father. [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services press release, Friday, March 26, 1999]

63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes. [U.S. D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census]

85% of children who exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes. [Center for Disease Control]

90% of adolescent repeat arsonists live with only their mother. [Wray Herbert, "Dousing the Kindlers," Psychology Today, January, 1985, p. 28]

71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes. [National Principals Association Report on the State of High Schools]

75% of adolescent patients in chemical abuse centers come from fatherless homes. [Rainbows for all God's Children]

70% of juveniles in state operated institutions have no father. [U.S. Department of Justice, Special Report, Sept. 1988]

85% of youths in prisons grew up in a fatherless home. [Fulton County Georgia jail populations, Texas Department of Corrections, 1992]

Fatherless boys and girls are: twice as likely to drop out of high school; twice as likely to end up in jail; four times more likely to need help for emotional or behavioral problems. [U.S. D.H.H.S. news release, March 26, 1999][2]

More than 20 million children live in a home without the physical presence of a father. Millions more have dads who are physically present, but emotionally absent. If it were classified as a disease, fatherlessness would be an epidemic worthy of attention as a national emergency.

More Data on the Extent of Fatherlessness

1. **An estimated 24.7 million children (33%) live absent their biological father.**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, "Living Arrangements of Children under 18 Years/1 and Marital Status of Parents by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin/2 and Selected Characteristics of the Child for all Children 2010." Table C3. Internet Release Date November, 2010.

2. **Of students in grades 1 through 12, 39 percent (17.7 million) live in homes absent their biological fathers.**

Source: Nord, Christine Winqvist, and Jerry West. Fathers' and Mothers' Involvement in their Children's Schools by Family Type and Resident Status. Table 1. (NCES 2001-032). Washington, DC: U.S. Dept of Education, National Center of Education Statistics, 2001.

3. **57.6% of black children, 31.2% of Hispanic children, and 20.7% of white children are living absent their biological fathers.**

Source: Family Structure and Children's Living Arrangements 2012. Current Population Report. U.S. Census Bureau July 1, 2012.

4. **According to 72.2 % of the U.S. population, fatherlessness is the most significant family or social problem facing America.**

Source: National Center for Fathering, Fathering in America Poll, January, 1999.

TRENDED DATA

• **Among children who were part of the "post-war generation," 87.7% grew up with two biological parents who were married to each other. Today only 68.1% will spend their entire childhood in an intact family.**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years Old: 1960 to Present". U.S. Census Bureau July 1, 2012.

• **With the increasing number of premarital births and a continuing high divorce rate, the proportion of children living with just one parent rose from 9.1% in 1960 to 20.7% in 2012. Currently, 55.1% of all black children, 31.1% of all Hispanic children, and 20.7% of all white children are living in single-parent homes.**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years Old: 1960 to Present". U.S. Census Bureau July 1, 2012.

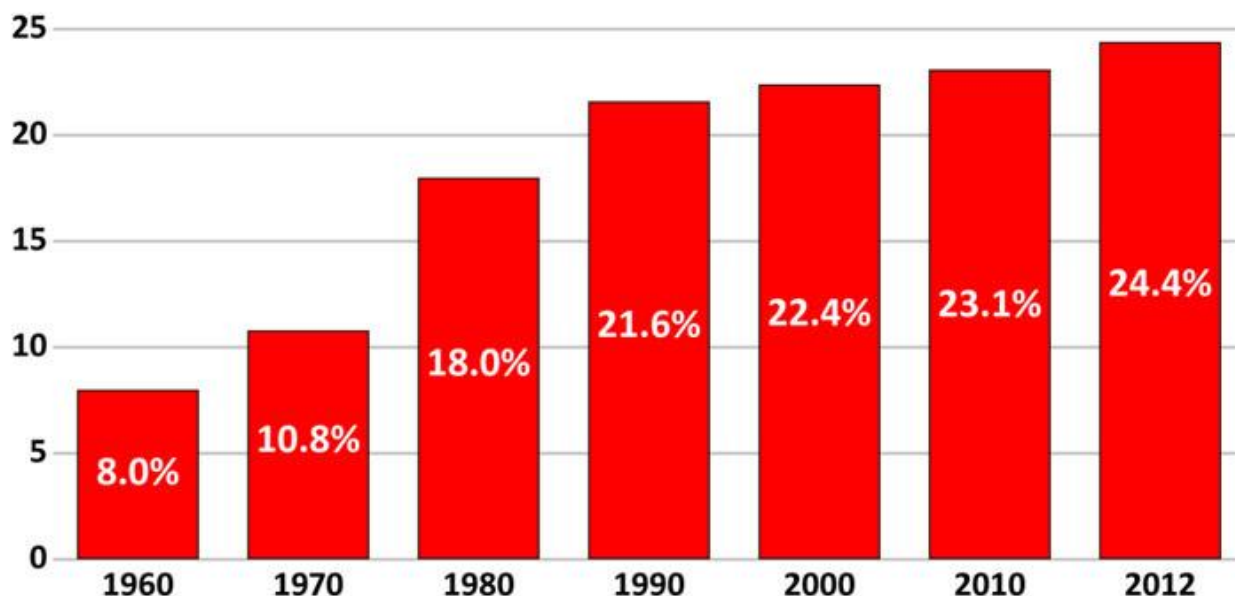
4. Source: Census Bureau. "Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years Old: 1960 to Present." U.S. Census Bureau, July 1, 2012.

5. **White children born in the 1950-1954 period spent only 8% of their childhood with just one parent; black children spent 22%. Of those born in 1980, by one estimate, white children can be expected to spend 31% of their childhood years with one**

parent, and black children 59%.

Source: Popenoe, David. Life Without Father (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996), 23.[3]

Children Living with Mother Only



[3]

Maybe, in the first place, it does not seem like a big deal not to be present in the life or emotional phase of child, but as you can see through the statistics above it is. In this point it is appropriate to mention one example.

In the late 19s, there was one decent family lived their fullest life with 5 children. The father was head of the family and worked as policeman to a government. On the one side, the mother of the family was modest, ingenuous housewife who thought the duty of woman staying at home and preparing flavorful dishes to her family, doing chores. Moreover, the parent of the mother had thought in the same way and that is why they found the academic accomplishment is not important for girl. The children of parents were also having a great life of their childhood, because they totally complete lifestyle. However, little did they know everything about their life would end up being completely upside down. After times went by, one day whole family was taken by surprise by the news about their father. The father cheated on his wife and was shamefully fired in humiliated way from his position for life. Then, this situation changed every single little thing on their life. Firstly, the mother who does not know anything but cooking had to find a job to survive and feed her family. She was really stressed out about this, but she eventually found a job at a factory as a freight carrier. Even though the work she was doing was harsh and hard, she was trying her best to bear all for her children.

Without involvement of father, and with only miserable, depressed mother children were surely affected not only in materialistic way but also mentally, emotionally. The five children were so psychologically insecure, left with low self-esteem, besides they had some trust issues from then on. Not because they had a lot of problems with making ends meet,

they had whole empty space in their life called father that can not be replaced by any other means.

On the youtube platform on page called TEDxTalks a content was released named THE LIFE-LONG IMPACT OF ABSENT FATHERS by Kent D. Ballard, Jr. a seasoned educator with more than 17 years of experience in various sectors, especially the industry of education. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a Masters in Education with a Specialization in Urban and Diverse Learners. He currently is the Workforce Education Specialist for the Chamber Foundation, a 501 c3 under the Huntsville/Madison Chamber of Commerce in Huntsville, Alabama. In his speech, "Fatherless is an interesting word. Everyone has a father but how that father relates to their children is a different story. I took the time to think about eight different types of fathers and I am pretty sure that I left out some of them. So please forgive me in advance. Let's talk about the "Disney dad". This is an all-inclusive dad who is at everything I mean this dad was always available the first to sign up for a pta event and did not even mind to overlook Alabama football game for the bake sale. He is a Disney dad everybody knows at least. But some of us had a "hollow dad" was in the home but was emotionally disconnected. Some of us had a "stone steve Austin dad" who was quick to grab a beer, quick to throw a punch or quick to hurl insults at their family, that father was very emotionally and very physically abusive. Some of us had "peek-a-boo dad" that was constantly in and out of their children's lives. Others had a "hide-and-go-seek dad" (is he here mom, have seen him, was he here this weekend, where is dad. Some of us had the experience of losing a father had the experience of a divorcing parent situation those fathers are called "hopscotch dads" those unfortunately by court mandate were offered the opportunity to be in and out the child's life every other weekend or every other week. Then there are some that were invisible dads, those dads we never and we never ever knew who they were. Some of us have had the issue of losing a father completely to death or however that happened but it is unfortunate. Those we call angel dads regardless of whatever type of dad we all had one but what does the definition of "fatherless" mean. In this case, actually puts the responsibility and engaging, to be enlightening, to be encouraging and to equip their children. Fathers who fail to create to firm foundation for their actually put their children at a great disadvantage. The children that actually have to go through a fatherless situation have the ability or look at life in a different format, there is no second guessing to even that a child that has gone through such a difficult situation has not had to overcome some significant barriers. In fact, children who have both parents are more inclined. Those children are more likely to be emotionally, educationally, socially and also behaviorally more prominent." [4]

All in all, not all the time there is physically father-absence, there is emotional absence of father as well. Sometimes, we need to contemplate the fact that everything is integrated for a reason, so did the family functioning. In some cases, minor ailments can result in severe, terminal injury. So do not shy away to interact with your children. It does

not only help them to have proper, well-balanced intellectual, emotional functioning as well as you will create memories that can not be erased for life.

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