

FALLING STANDARD OF PARENTING IN THE 21ST CENTURY: THE WAY FORWARD

Abstract

Being a parent in the 21st Century is more complex than what was obtainable previously because of the information and technology overload as well as the battle for children's minds these days, yet the fundamentals of raising children remain the same. The generational shifts or complexities of modern terms cannot negate the role of character as the foundation for building strong communities and nations. It is, therefore, imperative to examine the various factors responsible for the falling standard of parenting in the 21st Century and proffer solutions to them. This paper, therefore, seeks to investigate the factors responsible for the falling standard of parenting in the 21st Century with a view to charting the way forward to avoid the collapse of the 21st Century world.

Key words: Parenting, Falling Standard, 21st Century

INTRODUCTION

Parenting or child rearing is the raising of children and all the responsibilities and activities associated with it. It is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, financial and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood. Parenting also refers to the intricacies of raising a child and not exclusively for a biological relationship (Brooks, 2012). It is therefore the ultimate long-term investment. With changes in the 21st Century necessitated by rapid developments in world civilization, the very demanding task of parenting is becoming more and more overwhelming. Parenting has thus changed completely from what it used to be.

The challenges facing parents all over the world today are identical, irrespective of race, creed or ethnic background. Today, the culture is one of disrespect to parents and adults generally. These days many parents have very little authority in their own homes over their children. The lack of parental authority leads to major breakdown playing out in negative ways in today's society as many children grow up without the skills to deal with the challenges of teen and adult life. Decadence of moral values and erosion of traditional religious beliefs are being witnessed all over the place (Komolafe, 2016).

As parents of today are forced to raise their children in an environment where there are so many competing forces, there is a falling standard of parenting in this 21st Century. Yet, the fundamentals of raising children remain the same despite technological advances or changing of the social norms. The generated shifts cannot negate the role of character as the foundation for building strong communities and nations. What are the factors responsible for this? and what is the way forward in terms of solutions? These questions form the focus of this paper

with a view to seeking ways to prevent the collapse of this important pillar of the society; parenting.

What is Parenting?

According to Kretchmar-Hendricks (n.d.), parenting is the process of raising children and providing them with protection and care in order to ensure their healthy development into adulthood. Parenting is at its greatest level of intensity during infancy and toddlerhood. In the first few years of life, children depend entirely on their caregivers who determine most of their experiences.

Peterson (2022) also defined it as the process of raising a child from birth to independent adulthood. It involves facilitating the upbringing of a child through all stages of development. It has to do with caring for and training a child. Summarily, it refers to the parenting responsibilities that accompany child-raising.

According to Hoghughi (1998), parenting has three essential components – care, control and development.

Firstly, care protects children from harm. It also encompasses promoting emotional as well as physical wellbeing. Secondly, control involves setting and enforcing boundaries to ensure children's and others safety in their ever widening areas of activity. Thirdly, development involves optimizing children's potential and maximizing the opportunities for using it.

Adewale (2009), explained parenting among other things as:

- A call or service
- A privilege
- A responsibility
- A 24/7 work
- A joint work for husband and wife
- An assignment that cannot be delegated to any other person

- A work that requires investment of time
- A task that requires fervent prayer
- A task that requires consistency, and
- A task that is rewarding if done properly

Roles of Parenting

According to Salau (2019), parenting can be divided into four major roles which are as follows:

1. **Teacher** - The first five years are the bedrock of children's brain development, and the parent is the primary educator, who they learn from directly and indirectly. By age five, approximately 80 percent of the brain is developed with the core values set and the emotional baseline established for life. Ensuring that solid foundation like love, security and discipline are firmly built will help make the child's life better.
2. **Coach** - A coach is an expert who trains someone to learn or improve a skill. Children's characters get formed between ages 7 and 14. Here, the parent's focus should be on encouraging and grooming their minds. At this stage, a parent is to hold the child accountable and not to jump to fix their problems automatically. It is the duty of the parents as a coach to soothe the children through pain while encouraging them to be resilient.
3. **Mentor** – By age 15 to 16, their friends become the center of the lives and the bonds they have with their parents become tested. At this stage, the parental role transits to that of being a mentor. A mentor can be described as a wise or trusted counselor. This is when they begin to establish their own identities and parents should stick with advising and guiding them rather than dictating to them on how they should live or instruct them on who they should be. The firmer the foundation from childhood is, the easier the

teenage phase will be. Parents are mentors when they nurture interests, encourage and further the development of abilities and talents and support a child as he/she endeavours to reach goals (Roberts, 1992).

4. Cheerleader - At age 21, they should be independent people who have discovered themselves. It is time for parents to move to the sidelines and cheer them on as they run the race of life. Parents should observe them as they move on in a world that is different from what they are used to or that they expected.

21st Century Parenting

Parenting is a universal system which every human race subscribes to. It is as old as the existence of man on the surface of the earth. Parenting in the ancient time/pre-technological period is time consuming. However, with the advent of technological period, it has undergone enormous metamorphosis as Fasanmi (2016) observed.

Being a parent in the 21st Century is more complex than centuries before, mainly because of the information and technology overload as well as the present times. Today, children face more challenges of growing up. Salau (2010) remarked that parenting of today is a lot different from yesteryears. These children will be adults in a world that is rapidly evolving.

Parenting has always been a demanding job, one that does not involve prior training. Even though the previous generations did not face the challenges that are being faced today, but it was not smooth sailing for them either.

Adolescents today have access to technology that offers the opportunity for constant contact with peers and non-stop entertainment. Thus parent's influence is

challenged not only by the rise in peer influence during adolescents, but also by influence from social media.

The 21st Century child is unlike every other child from previous generations as Oyeleke (2002) observed. The peculiarities of this set of children make the process of parenting them a delicate one. The different technological advancements of the present time which the 21st Century children are exposed to constantly calls for the need for parents to put in extra effort in order to be effective parents.

Parenting Styles

According to Darling and Steinberg (1993), parenting style is defined as a constellation of parents' attitudes and behaviours, toward children and an emotional climate in which the parents' behaviours are expressed. A parenting style is a psychological construct representing standard strategies that parents use in child rearing. The quality of parenting can be more essential than the quantity of time spent with the child. Parenting styles are the representation of how parents respond to and make demands of their children to represent the different approaches parents use to raise their children.

Parenting is determined by numerous factors existing within and between parent and child within the immediate context in which both the parent and child are embedded and also within the broader, social and cultural contexts. The parenting style can affect everything from a child's self-esteem and physical health to how they relate to others (Morin, 2022).

Researchers have identified four (4) main types of parenting styles based on the work of Diana Baumrind, a developmental psychologist and Stanford researchers Eleanor Maccoby and John Martin.

Each of these parenting styles has different effects on children's behaviour and can be identified by certain characteristics, as well as degrees of responsiveness (the extent to which parents are warm and sensitive to their children's needs) and demandingness (the extent of control parents put on their children is an attempt to influence their behaviour) (Zeltzer, 2021).

1. **Authoritarian (Disciplinarian) Parenting Style:** This parenting style is based on control. Here, the parent retains complete control at all times. It involves children being expected to follow strict rules established by parents. Failure to follow such rules usually results in punishment. Authoritarian parents have high demands but are not responsive to their children. Such parents believe that authority and rules should be obeyed even if it means that the child's freedom is lost. This style, therefore, allows one way communication, strict laws and orders. This type of parenting style generally leads to children who are obedient and proficient but rank low in happiness, social competence and self-esteem (Cherry, 2020).
2. **Authoritative (Democratic) Parenting Style:** Authoritative parenting is the synthesis of control and emotional responsiveness towards the child. Here, parents establish rules and guidelines that children are expected to follow but in a much more democratic way than in the authoritarian style. Such parents are responsive to their children and their disciplinary styles are supportive rather than punitive. Authoritative parents have rules and use consequences but they also take their children's opinions into consideration. They validate their children's feelings while they also make it clear that the adults are ultimately in charge. They invest time and energy to prevent behavioural problems before they start and also use positive discipline strategies like

praise and reward (not bribery) to reinforce positive behaviour. (Cherry, 2020).

Authoritative parents explain reasons behind their rules. Such parents put a lot of effort into creating and maintaining a positive relationship with their children. This type of parenting style tends to result in children who are happy, capable and successful. Researchers have found out that children of such parents are most likely to become responsible adults who feel comfortable, self-advocating at expressing their opinions and feelings. They are more likely to be good at making sound decisions and evaluating safety risks on their own (Morin, 2022).

3. **Permissive (Indulgent) Parenting Style:** This style is opposite of authoritarian style. Here, the child has control. Few demands are being made of children. Such parents rarely discipline their children because they have low expectations of maturity and self-control. They are more responsive than demanding, often taking on the status of a friend more than of a parent. They do not like to say no or disappoint their children. Such parents set rules but rarely enforce them (and some rarely set rules), they do not give out consequences very often and when they do it does not last; so they are not as strict as expected. They adopt an attitude of “kids always behave like kids”. Permissive parents always encourage their children, they talk to them about their problems but do not put in sufficient effort into discouraging poor choices or bad behaviour. The outcome is that kids who grow up with permissive parents:

- i. Are more likely to struggle academically
- ii. May exhibit more behavioural problems than other children because they don't appreciate authority and rules
- iii. They often have low self-esteem and may not always be happy.

- iv. They are at a higher risk for health problems like obesity because their parents find it difficult to limit unhealthy food intake or promote regular exercise or healthy sleeping habits.
- v. They are also likely to have dental cavities because their parents don't enforce good habit like minimizing the intake of chocolates and other sugary things as well as regular brushing of teeth.
- vi. They have worse self-control than other children.
- vii. They possess egocentric tendencies.
- viii. They encounter more problems in relationships and social interactions.

This style often results in children who rank low in happiness and self-regulation. They are more likely to experience problems with authority and tend to perform poorly in school (Cherry, 2020).

4. Uninvolved (Neglectful) Parenting Style: This style is characterized by few demands, low responsiveness and little communication. Such parents fulfill the child's basic needs but are generally detached from the child's life. In extreme cases, they even neglect the children's basic needs. Neglectful parents do not set firm boundaries. They are indifferent to their children's needs and uninvolved in their lives. They tend to have little knowledge of what their children are doing. There are few rules in such household. Neglected children do not get much guidance, nurturing and parental attention. They expect children to raise themselves, this may not be intentional, for instance, a parent with mental health issues or substance-abuse problems may not be able to care for a child's physical or emotional needs on a consistence basis. Such parents might have experienced physical abuse and parent neglect when they were kids. Indulgent parent may lack

knowledge of child development or may be simply overwhelmed with other problems. Such children tend to lack self-control and are less competent than their peers. They are also likely to struggle with self-esteem issues, they tend to perform poorly in school also exhibit frequent behaviour problems and rank low in happiness (Morin, 2022).

In order to present a cohesive approach, Adebisi (2014) opined that it is essential that parents learn to cooperate as they combine various elements of their unique parenting styles.

Studies have found out that authoritative parents are more likely to raise confident kids who achieve academic success, have better social skills and are more capable at problem-solving. Such children are usually independent, self-reliant and socially competent kids. According to Zeltser (2021), while children of authoritative parents are not immune to mental health issues, relationship difficulties, substance abuse, poor self-regulation or low self-esteem, these traits are more commonly seen in children of parents who strictly employ authoritarian, permissive or uninvolved parenting styles.

According to Li (2022), research shows that authoritative parenting is consistently linked to the best outcome in kids. Psychologists and Psychiatrists therefore considered authoritative style as the best parenting style. It is regarded as the most developmentally healthy and effective parenting style. However, in actual fact, when it comes to parenting there is no “one size fits all”. One does not have to subscribe to just one type, as there may be times when one has to use a varied parenting approach but in moderation. This implies that one or more of these different types at different times may be used depending on the situation and context.

Table 1: THE FOUR PARENTING STYLES

AUTHORITARIAN (DISCIPLINARIAN)	AUTHORITATIVE (DEMOCRATIC)	PERMISSIVE (INDULGENT)	UNINVOLVED (NEGLECTFUL)
High Demandingness Low Responsiveness	High Demandingness High Responsiveness	Low Demandingness High Responsiveness	Low Demandingness Low Responsiveness
Has similar names with authoritative parenting style, but they have several important differences in parenting beliefs, demands and approaches.	They have high expectations for achievement and maturity but they are also warm and responsive.	Permissive parents set very few rules and boundaries and they are reluctant to enforce rules.	Sometimes referred as uninvolved parenting this style is exemplified by an overall sense of indifference.
High levels of parental control and low levels of parental responsiveness are the two characteristics of the authoritative style.	They set rules and enforce boundaries by having open discussions, providing guidance and using reasoning.	These indulgent parents are warm and indulgent; they do not like to say no or disappoint their children.	Neglective parents do not set firm boundaries or high standards.
While this and authoritative parental styles demand high standards, authoritarian parents demand blind obedience using reasons such as “because I said so”. They only allow one way communication through strict rules and orders. Any attempt to reason with them are seen as backtalk.	These parents provide their kids with reasoning and explanation for their actions. Explanations allow children to have a sense of awareness and teach kids about values, morals and goals.	Such parents typically go through great lengths to keep their kids happy, sometimes at their own expense.	They are indifferent to their children’s needs and uninvolved in their lives.
These parents use stern discipline and often employ harsh punishment, such as corporal punishment as a way to obtain behavioural control.	These parents communicate frequently, they listen to and take into consideration their children’s thoughts, feelings and opinions.	They prefer to avoid conflict.	They can also be seen as cold and uncaring but not always intentionally as they are often struggling with their own issues.
Enforces strict rules with little consideration of their kids’ feelings or social-emotional and behavioural needs.	Kids who have authoritative parents tend to be self-disciplined and can think for themselves	They are more likely to take on a friendship role than a parenting role with their kids.	These uninvolved parents may have mental issues themselves such as depression, physical abuse or child neglect when they were kids.
Communication is	Their disciplinary	Children of permissive	Such parents offer little

<p>mostly one way from parent to child.</p>	<p>methods are confrontative i.e. reasoned, negotiable, outcome-oriented and concerned with regulating behaviours as opposed to coercive.</p>	<p>parents tend to have the worst outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cannot follow rules ii. Have worst self-control iii. Possess egocentric tendencies iv. Encounter more problems in relationships and social interactions v. Rank low in happiness and self regulation vi. More likely to experience problems with authority vii. Tend to perform poorly in school 	<p>nurturance, guidance and attention.</p>
<p>Their disciplinary methods are coercive i.e. arbitrary, peremptory, domineering & concerned with marking status distinctions.</p>	<p>Such parents set clear rules and expectations for their kids while practising flexibility and understanding.</p>		<p>They often struggle with their own self-esteem issues and have a hard time for forming close relationships.</p>
<p>Authoritative parents are unresponsive to their child's needs and are generally not nurturing.</p>	<p>They are nurturing, supportive and often in tune with their children's needs.</p>		<p>Such parents mostly allow their children to fend for themselves, perhaps because they are indifferent to their needs or are uninvolved or overwhelmed with other things.</p>
<p>They usually justify using mean treatment to toughen up their kids.</p>	<p>They guide their children through open and honest discussion to teach values and reasoning.</p>		<p>They have limited engagement with their children and rarely implement rules.</p>
<p>This rigid parenting style uses stern discipline, often justified as "tough love". In attempt to be in full control.</p>	<p>Authoritative parents are affectionate and supportive. They respect their children's autonomy, provide them with a lot of freedom</p>		<p>Children of neglectful parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Are more impulsive ii. Cannot self-regulate emotion iii. Encounter more

<p>Parents often talk to their children without wanting input or feedback.</p>	<p>and encourage independence.</p>		<p>delinquent behaviours and addiction problems. iv. Have more mental issues e.g. suicidal behaviour in adolescents.</p>
<p>Children whose parents adopt this style tend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be obedient and proficient ii. have an unhappy disposition iii. be less independent iv. appear insecure v. possess low self-esteem and social competence vi. exhibit more behavioural problems or conduct issues vii. be more temper tantrums viii. perform worse academically ix. have poorer social competence x. be more prone to internalizing behaviour and mental issues. xi. be more likely to have drug- use problems. xii. have worse coping skills. 	<p>They allow bi-directional communication.</p>		

	Children of Authoritative parents are cherished.		
	<p>Their children tend to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be happy, capable, contented and successful ii. be more independent iii. be more active iv. achieve higher academic performance v. develop good self-esteem vi. interact with peers using competent social skills vii. have better mental health - less depression, anxiety, suicide attempts, delinquency, alcohol and drug use viii. exhibit less violent tendencies ix. be securely attached. x. be self-disciplined and can think for themselves 		

Source: Li P. (2022) - 4 Types of Parenting Styles and their effects on the child

CAUSES OF THE FALLING STANDARD OF PARENTING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

One of the reasons why parenting has changed completely from what it used to be in the past is because more women are now taking up time-consuming careers and going into business. This makes parenting in the 21st Century much more challenging. Such women hardly spend quality time to train their children or monitor their activities. The fact that many parents cannot dedicate enough time to

inculcate good habits in their children may make those children get involved in wrong-doings. Hence, time constraint is one of the very important challenges confronting parenting in the 21st Century.

Coupled with this is the fact that some children do not feel attached to their parents. Kids at any age need personal and unconditional love and attention. Some do not get the desired attention because their parents do not have the time. They therefore feel rejected and fall victim to several psychological difficulties like low self-esteem, inferiority complex etc. (Sithara, 2021).

Another reason why there is falling standard of parenting is the adoption of the permissive (indulgent) parenting style by many parents today. Such parents tend to be warm, nurturing and usually have minimal or no expectations. Permissive parents set very few rules and boundaries and are reluctant to enforce such rules. They do not like to say no or disappoint their children. It is unfortunate that some parents have chosen to abdicate their role for the sake of expediency and to maintain their status as being 'cool' or 'considerate'. In the process, they have handed over their authority to their children, to dictate what they want, how they want it and when they want it without any concern about the implications of such practice.

Studies have shown that children of such parents tend to have worst outcomes, they cannot follow rules, have worse self-control and they possess egocentric tendencies and encounter more problems in relationships and social interactions (Li, 2022). Communication remains open but parents allow their children to figure things out themselves. These low levels of expectation usually result in rare uses of discipline. They act more like friends than parents. As a result of the limited rules, such children may have unhealthy eating habits, especially regarding pastries

and other fast foods, which can result in increased risks of obesity and other health problems later in the child's life. Such children also decide their bedtime, if or when to do homework, etc. This level of freedom can lead to the development of negative habits as the parent does not provide much guidance on moderation.

Conclusively, children of permissive parents cannot follow rules, they usually have some self-esteem and decent social skills but can be impulsive, demanding, selfish and lack self-regulation.

A growing and disturbing trend that has contributed negatively to the falling standard of parenting is the emergence of the children raised by technology syndrome. This refers to the use of television, tablets, social media applications, mobile phones and other devices. Kumar (2022), talking about parenting in digital era remarked that technology which has invaded every nook and corner of our life is one of the biggest challenges that modern parents have to face. While these enhanced tools of learning have their place in the development of a child, they by no means serve as replacements or substitutes for parenting. Ideally, their use should be supervised but unfortunately many parents do not have time to do this. Google, for instance, has become the chief counselor or advisor to some children in the absence or lack of interest of busy parents. Sadly, there is much content on the worldwide web that is unfiltered that children have access to which can consequently, if unchecked, serve as a weapon of destruction to children of nowadays.

Furthermore, examples are the best teaching aids in life. Lewis (2022), emphasized the need for parents to be a good role model. Parents should be aware that their children are constantly watching them. Kids learn a lot about how to act by watching their parents in today's society. It is obvious that some parents lack

the character they would like to see in their kids. Some are not good role models for their children. When parents are exemplary, their kids will naturally follow without any form of coercion. Examples have a way of sticking to human minds more than ordinary words can ever do. For most parents today, it is “do as I say” not “do as I do”. Some parents lack qualities such as respect, affection, integrity and tolerance which they would want to see in their children’s lives.

Also, a lot of children are dysfunctional in the 21st Century because of fatherlessness. The cases of single mothers are becoming more rampant - situations where fathers are not physically dead but are dead to their responsibilities or not available physically. Several women these days are raising their children alone for different reasons – divorce, spouse’s irresponsibility, economic immigration of some men or Big Girl Syndrome (that make some ladies to decide to have children on their own either with a Baby Daddy or by adoption or by surrogacy). Studies have shown that children thrive best in stable marriages and non-dysfunctional homes where fathers and mothers play active roles in nurturing and rearing of children (Adegbola, 2019).

Rigidity and unwillingness to adjust one’s parenting style is another major challenge of parenting. If a parent feels disappointed by the child’s behaviour, such a parent probably has unrealistic expectations and may need to make some consultations or make a decision for adjustment. Some parents may not realize this, and this will bring about some serious problems. Some parents may also not be aware that as a child grows, they will gradually have to change their parenting style.

Treating a teenager like a toddler for instance will definitely cause some problems. Teens tend to look less to their parents and more to their peers as role models.

Good parenting will involve a parent continuing to provide guidance, encouragement and appropriate discipline while allowing the teenager to earn more independence but the parent must make sure he/she seizes every available opportunity to make a connection. Inadequate knowledge of such hints is one of the reasons for the state of parenting as it is today (Kidshealth, n.d.).

Inability of some parents to express unconditional love to an erring child is another issue. Parents are responsible for correcting and guiding their kids. But how a parent expresses his/her corrective guidance makes all the difference as to how a child receives it. As much as possible a parent should avoid blaming, criticizing or fault-finding which hurt self-esteem and can lead to resentment. Instead, parents should try to nurture and encourage even when disciplining the child. A parent should make the child to know even though something better was expected, he/she is still loved. Many parents do not realize this and so act contrary to this expectation (Kidshealth, n.d.).

Also, parents sometimes feel exhausted and this not only affects the quality of the interaction between parents and their children but it also impacts on parents' capacity to impose boundaries consistently. Therefore, at times, when stressed parents 'give in' the children realize this and take undue advantage of such situations.

Furthermore, education these days has become intensely assessment-focused, children and adolescents have never been as stressed at school as they are now. Stress erodes emotional well-being and often causes children and adolescents to behave badly (Di Lobbett, 2018).

Lack of needed skills by parents is also a major challenge to parenting in this contemporary time. According to Ologe (2021), the needed skills for good parenting include the following:

- i. ***Self-leadership skill***: Ability to lead yourself. The skill you want to teach your child, do you have it as a parent?
- ii. ***A parent also needs to develop discipline skills***: In developing these, you need to be fair, firm and friendly.
- iii. ***A parent also needs to help his/her child to develop social skills***: which include sharing, giving feedback, seeing things from others' perspective, making eye contact and managing negative emotions.
- iv. ***Improve your connection skills***: Many parents think they are connected with their children but in actual fact they are just being present. You cannot connect without content, connection is in what you have to give. Moyo (2011), cited by Akerele (2019), mentioned connecting true love as one of the roles of parenting, which he described as warmth, affection, care, comfort, concern, nurture or support by parents that help a child to know that he or she is loved and accepted. Akerele (2019) therefore concluded that parental love will create a conducive atmosphere for child development and interaction.
- v. ***Ability to focus on your child's positive behaviour and not just his/her negative behaviour***. Whatever you keep laying emphasis on will grow. If the emphasis is on wrong doings, it becomes a subconscious thought and the child begins to internalize it. The more a parent focuses on the positive behaviour, the better the child becomes and vice versa.

Unfortunately, many parents lack many of these aforementioned skills, hence the falling standard of parenting that is prevalent in our society today. For all these

important reasons, relationships in families today have become frayed and make parents feel that they have lost or are losing control in the home.

The Way Forward

It is obvious that children nowadays are being raised in a climate of ever-increasing complexities. Situation of things today point to the fact that we are in a difficult time and parenting is becoming very challenging. It is imperative to seek the way out of this challenging situation to avoid collapse of the society. For improvement on the present standard of parenting, we need to do the following among others:

(1) Get Information

Intelligent people are always ready to learn, their ears are open to knowledge. Akindolie (2021), suggests that parents should seek knowledge by:

- (i) attending seminars/workshops/enlightenment programmes on parenting
- (ii) getting materials (CDs, books, etc)
- (iii) knowing the language your children speak (online and offline)
- (iv) sharing/conveying vital information to your children

(2) Build Relationships

“Your children need your presence more than your presents”. Jesse Jackson

- Deliberately create time for your children
- Have discussions with them
- Ensure you are well connected with your children.

(3) A parent should be flexible and willing to adjust his/her parenting style if and when the need arises. If someone is not satisfied with his child’s

behaviour it may become necessary for such person to change his/her parenting style.

(4) Be a Role-Model

Another effective way of parenting the 21st Century child is through exemplary life style. One of the important things parents can do for their children is to model the kind of person we would like them to be”. Carol Hillman

Parents should be good example to their children in every aspect of life.

Parents should model the traits they wish to see in their kids – such as respect, friendliness, honesty, kindness and tolerance. Li (2022), said “walk the talk, don’t just tell your children what you want them to do. The best way to teach them is to show them”.

Lastly but by no means the least

The God-Factor

- As a parent, depend on God. Ask for grace, wisdom and direction for this God-given assignment.
- As a parent you have a God-given role of teaching your children what it means to respond to God.
- It is your duty as parents to guide your children in the way of God. Proverbs 22 verse 6 in the Holy Bible says “train up a child the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”.
- Make sure your children know that there is a God they can look up to at all times, including difficult times.
- Children also need to know the importance of communication with the Almighty God.

- (5) Remember you don't know it all, seek for help and advice when necessary.
- (6) Don't give up.

Conclusion

Adequate parenting plays a significant role in the life of any child. The way a child is brought up will influence him/ her for the rest of his/ her life. It is therefore imperative to look into the deplorable state of parenting worldwide in this 21st century with a view to improving performance.

Parenting is a very demanding job. One may feel overwhelmed at some stages of his/her parenting journey, but the fact remains that it is as rewarding as ever. To be an effective parent in this 21st Century is indeed a great and demanding task as a result of the fast pace at which the world is moving. Effective parenting for the 21st Century child requires patience, knowledge, information, exemplary life, firmness and much more as Oyeleke (2022), observed.

Even though there is no such thing as a perfect parent, because even the best of parents will at one time or the other carry out a form of bad parenting that will negatively affect the child, every parent should strive for improvement. Self-reflection and self-evaluation at regular intervals by every parent is needful. Our children are our future, and the future of the society. We should, therefore, be at our best in raising our children, to secure our future and for the survival of the society.

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