

Both parents assume equal responsibility in raising a child

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## Essay

Parents are not only the source of a child's coming to this world, but they also play a significant role in making him what he becomes in his life. The nature and extent of this role may be slightly different in different parts of the world depending upon the culture and traditions, yet its importance can nowhere be undermined. With reference to parenting, there has always been a debate whether it is the mother who should play more vibrant and direct role or the father. The answer to this question might be different with different people depending upon their experiences of life, yet if someone conducts a meticulous analysis of

the impact of the institution of family on human life, he will have no doubt that both parents should play not only a vibrant but also an equal role in the upbringing of the child. Strengthening of parents-children bond, inculcation of necessary skills in children, and improvement in husband-wife relationship are some of the many benefits that can be availed only if both parents equally share the responsibility of upbringing the child. At the same time, some of the important factors that interrupt the equal role of parents also need to be discussed and analyzed. These impeding factors can however be minimized, if not eliminated,

through some scrupulously  
devised measures and steps.

parenting is the  
process of raising the  
children. As per Cambridge  
Dictionary, a parent is  
a person who gives birth  
to a child. A parent can  
either be a father or  
a mother and both of  
them are collectively  
called parents. In normal  
circumstances, both the  
parents try to play an  
effective role in the  
upbringing of their children,  
but whether the role  
is equal or not  
is definitely a big  
question. The term equal role  
in raising a child can  
be interpreted in a  
number of ways. In the  
world, where male parents  
are usually focused at  
earning money only, without

8/ contributing to the raising of the child physically, an equal role refers to father's role beyond financial responsibilities. Equal role of both parents in the raising of a child demands that the father should spend time with the children and do jobs that usually mothers are supposed to perform in normal circumstances.

Now as far as the importance of the equal role of both parents in raising a child is concerned, it can be highlighted in a number of ways. Firstly, the bond of love and affection that is actual base of the child-parents' relationship gets developed and strengthened only.



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When parents play a practical role in raising the child by spending time with it. Parenting is not about spending the money only; it is about sharing the feelings and emotions as well. In a situation where any of the parents does not play an active role in the raising of the child, the parents-children's relationship remains lopsided as the children always remain at a distance from the parent who is unavailable to them physically. This is equal role in raising the children that can enable the children and parents to understand and respect each other's feelings and opinions. The importance of parent's equally raising the child has

multiple times increased.  
in the fast age of  
technology as the absence  
of both or any of  
the parents makes the  
children get attached with  
social media which itself  
is immensely detrimental.  
because of its pernicious  
impacts.

Similarly, children have a  
number of gender specific  
physical and emotional  
needs and requirements  
that can not be fulfilled  
unless both parents discharge  
their responsibilities well  
and play an equal role  
in the raising of  
the child. For a female  
child for instance the  
care and attention of  
her mother is immensely  
significant and irreplaceable  
particularly when she is

entering the adolescence. Likewise, only the father can guide and mentor a male child in a number of matters. Absence of an active role by any of the parents forces children to seek advice from other children who are older than them, and this thing, at times, makes them entangled in a bad company.

Besides this, an active and equal role played by the both parents inject wisdom and skill in the child in a better way and helps him become able to deal with different situations sensibly. There is no blinking the fact that the experience of

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a mother and a father usually belong to different fields and dimensions of life and they are equally important to be shared with the children if they are to be guarded against a number of follies and mistakes. In a family, where either of the parents is unable to discharge his/her responsibilities in a proper way, the learning process of the children gets affected, and the probability of their handling different situations of life in a mature way get reduced. Young people's fast-growing inclination towards drugs and crime is a big testimony to the very same fact.

Likewise, both parents' playing an equal, sole in the raising of the child strengthens their bond with each other and makes them lead a happy life. When a male and a female gets married, it is primarily the physical attraction towards the opposite gender that serves as the bond between the two for some initial years. The very feeling keeps on waning with the passage of time and eventually comes to a complete end. This is the love and attraction towards children which at that time serves as the binding force between the couple and keeps them united. In the case where both parents play a direct and practical role in the raising

of the child, this force is many times more than that in the other cases.

It is a well-known fact that the incidents of divorce rarely happen where both parents are family oriented and love to spend time with children enjoying their company. In a simple equation, these are children which convert a couple into a family; this is the love and attraction towards children that keeps the couple united even in the face of a number of issues and differences between them.

Another important dimension of the importance of equal role in parenting is the personal and professional growth of.

parents that gets affected. in case. one of them does not discharge his/her responsibilities properly. In all situations, where either of the parents, usually the male parent in most of the, plays less or no direct role in the raising of the child, the other parent due to over burden of the responsibility finds no time for growth as a human or a professional. The case of women in underdeveloped countries is a quintessence in this regard. As in underdeveloped countries the responsibility of raising the child lies primarily on the shoulders of women being mothers and males remain focused just on earning.

money, the practice of quitting education or even job is very much common among married females. Most unfortunately, even many lady doctors are unable to continue their professions because of their solely lifting the burden of physically raising the children and no support from their husbands in this regard. In all such cases where husbands help their wives in taking care of the babies after their economic activities, women's contribution to the society as a member is more beneficial and productive.



After delineating the importance of both parents' role in the upbringing of children, it is pertinent to analyze some of the factors that can justifiably be held responsible for not letting this happen. Firstly, these are the financial roles and responsibilities that usually keep men over occupied and don't spare them to be a good father at their homes. As more than eighty percent population of the world is either middle or lower class with reference to financial position, the sustenance of the family depends upon active financial activities carried out by either one of the parents or even the both.

Usually, it is the male who takes the financial responsibility on his shoulders and does any activity in the form of job, business, or labour. The overall duration of this activity in most of the cases is excessively long and whenever the poor male is back to home, he is so much physically and mentally drained that nothing beyond having a sound sleep can be expected from him.

Similarly, the cultural restrictions too at times don't let both parents play an equal role in the raising of the children. In many countries of the world, looking after the children is

considered to be a purely female related job and if some male tries to contribute to even as a hobby, he has to face criticism and derision. As an example, the customs and traditions prevailing in the tribal and rural areas of Pakistan can be analyzed as a case study. In these areas, not only this that male's physically contributing to the raising of the child is not considered appropriate, but male's doing anything in this regard is also taken as a failure on the part of the female parent to discharge her responsibilities properly.

Then there are some psychological and behavioral issues because of which any of the parents may fail to contribute equally to the raising of the children. There are many people who get uncomfortable because of a number of things associated with children: their hygiene issues; their asking questions repeatedly; their failing to follow parent's instructions; etc. such people because of their issues either themselves avoid getting close to children or children, too, start avoiding them.

In the same way, excessive population growth rate and poverty are the two factors that make effective parenting even by either of the

parents impossible, not to talk of equal parenting by the both. Because of the two factors the attention of the parents remains diverted either due to excessive number of children or financial predicaments and they are never able to take care of the needs of and pay attention to the children in an effective way.

Finally problems in the husband-wife relationship also impact the equal role of the both in raising the children. These problems may be caused by a number of factors, the ultimate outcome of them however is neglected in upbringing of the children. The

situation gets further worsened.  
in case of divorce.  
or the without  
divorce. separation of the  
couple.

As far as the measures  
that can be helpful  
in enhancing the role  
of both the parents  
is concerned, they can be  
many. To start with, educational  
institutions should play a  
productive role in this regard.  
Educational institutions  
should start inculcating  
the importance of  
parenting in the minds  
of the students from  
the very beginning. Male  
students should specially  
be motivated to  
contribute to the  
raising of the children  
beyond their financial  
responsibilities.

Secondly, some pre marriage counselling sessions can also be helpful in sensitizing the to-be-married couples to the importance of parenting and the role that every one of them should play. More appropriately, registration of marriage should be conditioned with couple's successfully attending the counselling session and even passing a test after it. Printed material and recorded video and audio lectures can be used to enhance the effectivity and practicability of this session.

Thirdly, some legislative and administrative measures aimed at facilitating the parents of young.

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children in work timings can also be a step in the right direction. Policy of work from home, sponsoring of family tours on annual basis, a day off on child's birthday, etc can be some relevant measures. The goal of these measures should be to make it possible for the parents to spend more and more time with their children particularly when they are in the tender age.

Fourthly, the media should highlight the importance of both parents' role in raising the children in a systemized way. Films, dramas, articles, stories: everything can be used as a tool in the context.



Every government should condition the grant of license with the carrying out of some such activities by the media as can be useful in improving the role of parents in the society.

Finally, some meticulously devised measures for the control of excessive population growth and eradication of poverty are the need of the hour. Global organizations should take the lead in the context and try to make their already in-progress activities more target oriented in addition to taking some more initiatives for the purpose. Launching awareness campaigns, enhancing the

coverage and effectivity of safety nets, and improvement in the literacy rate can be helpful in the context.

In a nutshell, there are no two opinions that both parents should discharge their responsibilities related to the upbringing of the children equally in order to ensure that they give mature, sensible and responsible members to the society. Parenting if done by both parents equally casts positive impacts on the husband-wife bond. In addition to many other benefits associated with the development of child's personality. As the detailed analysis reveals, there exist a myriad of factors, that impact either of the parents.

performance and don't let him/her contribute to child's upbringing. The way he/she should. Some ameliorative measures including sensitizing the youth to the importance of parenting in educational institutions, facilitating the married people at work places, adopting measures for curbing the unplanned population growth, and conducting pre-marriage counseling sessions can be the helpful step for getting the targeted goals. Parenting, everyone needs to understand, is not only an onerous task but has far reaching impacts on the overall society as well. The deterioration that is gradually occurring in almost all the societies of the world demands some.

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urgent and well planned approach. from all of us. Good parenting can definitely prove to be the most pertinent step in the context.