

BOTH PARENTS SHOULD ASSUME EQUAL RESPONSIBILITY IN RAISING A CHILD

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OUTLINE

(1) Introduction:

Both parents should assume equal responsibility in raising a child because it results in better upbringing of a child and proves beneficial for both parents.

(2) Why both parents should assume equal responsibility in raising a child.

(a) Ensure division of extra responsibility of child rearing on women that empowers them

(b) Give free time to women to relax after child delivery

(c) Earning of a woman can give better life style to family especially to a child.

(d) Co-parenting ensures attachment of a child to both parents.

(e) Ensures multi-faceted learning and personality development in early childhood

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(f) Nurturing gender equality in child psycho

(g) Improving the performance of child in school

(h) Developing sense of teamwork in a child

(i) Preparing a child for living in a society by inculcating values in him.

(j) Increase career opportunities for both parents

(k) Ensured time management and work life balance for both parents

(l) Enhances understanding between a mother and a father that strengthen the family bond

(3) Conclusion

THE ESSAY

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The movie "In the Pursuit of Happiness" depicts the true story of Chris Gardner who was a single parent and his spouse left him because of his poor financial condition. He used to take refuge in churches and sometimes in public washrooms at night with his son. He even sold his blood to earn some money to bear the expenses of his son's education. Time passed and he became a billionaire due to his struggle but he never forgot the hardships he faced because of being a single parent. In the ancient time, social roles were explicitly defined. Women were restricted to play the role of child caregiver and men was only breadwinner. Even today, in many third world countries, raising a child is considered as a sole responsibility of a woman. If both parents play their role in rearing a child, it will prove beneficial for both parents and a child. It results in better personality development of a child. Women empowerment is also an outcome of shared responsibility of parenting. Men and women can easily achieve work life balance by ensuring

co-parenting. Therefore, both parents should assume equal responsibility in raising child because it results in better upbringing of child and proves beneficial for both parents.

Starting with the benefits of co-parenting, the first benefit is that it ensures division of extra responsibility of child rearing on women that empowers them. Gone are the days when women was only responsible for doing household chores. Women have now made strides in the professional life as well. However, women are still

only responsible for rearing a child. They have to do both the jobs side by side. This creates extra burden on them. Sometimes, they quit their jobs to raise their children. Nonetheless, co-parenting can ensure the equal participation of women in both roles. In countries like Sweden, Iceland and Norway, where parental leaves are shared and fathers are legally encouraged to participate in child rearing, women empowerment rates and leadership roles are highest in the world. Hence, shared responsibility of parenting can promote women empowerment.

In addition to that, co-parenting gives free time to women to relax after child delivery. Women bear hard labour pain and hormonal imbalance while giving birth to child. Right after giving birth to their baby, they are bound to take care their babies. They have to wake up late at night to change the diapers of their baby and also to make milk bottle for a baby. This gives them no time to relax. Co-parenting can give a chance to women to relax.

The American Psychological Association found that mothers with supportive co-parenting partners report 40% lower rates of postpartum depression. Hence, co-parenting ensures better post delivery health of a mother.

Moreover, earning of women can provide better life style to a family especially to child. Today, global inflation is surging and the prices of daily used things are sky-rocketing. In this scenario, restricting financial responsibility to one person can exacerbate the crisis. Co-parenting can provide an opportunity to women to share the financial burden with husbands. This would ameliorate their life style and

would be able to provide better facilities to their child. In the developing countries, where women are restricted to homes, poverty levels are high. Whereas, in developed countries, where co-parenting is common, financial conditions of families are sound. Thus, shared parental responsibility can improve pecuniary conditions of families by giving women an opportunity to earn.

Furthermore, Co-parenting ensures attachment of child to both parents. Normally, children are more attached to their mother because mother spends a lot of time with them. She is the primary caregiver to them. Father's role is mainly confined to external and monetary affairs of family. This brings alienation in child-father relation. Children feel uncomfortable in sharing things with their fathers. Co-parenting can ensure attachment of a child to both mother and father. When a father spends time with his child during playing or help him in his homework, it results in strengthening of father-child bond. This makes child confident in sharing his problems with his father. Journal

of Marriage and Family. Found that coparenting resulted in higher trust levels of children on both parents than those reared by single parent. Hence, co-parenting can strengthen child's bond with both parents.

Besides, co-parenting ensures multi-faceted learning and personality development of children in early childhood. Both women and men have different personality traits. Women are generally soft-spoken, kind, sensitive and honest. Whereas, men are more intelligent, emotionally stable, disciplined and brave. Men are rational decision makers while women are emotional decision makers.

Parenting by both parents can result in the development of balanced personality. Children can acquire different traits of his mother and father. Mothers often engage in nurturing and verbal communication, while fathers frequently promote exploratory and task oriented play. This dual exposure enriches cognitive development. Harvard University report reveals that children raised by both parents can more easily learn languages and solve problems. Thus, co-parenting ensures the impressive personality of a child's development of

In addition to that co-parenting can nurture gender equality in child psyche. Social learning theory by Albert Bandura says that children learn from their surroundings and environment. When a child sees both parents as his caregiver, it nurtures the idea of gender equality in his mind. He would develop the perception that women role is not only confined to home. They can earn and adopt various professions. Similarly, it would also create an image of a man as not only a breadwinner but also as a person who can help his women in rearing children. He would then replicate same things when he becomes adult. Therefore, co-parenting ~~creates~~ promotes gender equality.

Furthermore, shared responsibility also improves performance of child in school. When both parents are concerned with the upbringing of their children, children would get double attention in their homes. Both parents would be able to make better decisions for their children through mutual discussions. Parents would be able to help

their children in school tasks. Other parent can ^{get} daily updates from teacher and attend parent teacher meeting when one is busy. According to the report of Child Development 2022, children raised through co-parenting have higher academic achievements and attendance. Therefore, shared responsibility of parenting can help a child to excel in academics.

Moreover, co-parenting can develop sense of teamwork in a child. When a child sees that both parents are giving their inputs in raising him, it would teach him teamwork. When children notices ^{his} parents reaching to consensus even in disagreements, he would learn to compromise instead of showing dominance. Co-parenting helps children to learn collaboration and cooperation. This would help him to progress in social and academic life. Hence, co-parenting can instill the skill of teamwork in child.

Besides, co-parenting can better prepare a child to live in society by inculcating values in him. Co-parenting is marked by shared sense of responsibility, cooperation and mutual understanding. Children learn these

values which help them to become responsible citizen of a society. Moreover, learning of skills during co-parenting help them to tackle different situation in different ways. For example, some situations may require to display courage and other require to stay calm and polite. Co-parenting also increase the confidence of a child to face different circumstances. A study published in the Journal of Family Psychology that children raised under co-parenting shows higher level of self-esteem and confidence. Therefore, co-parenting prepares a child to live a healthy and better social life.

Furthermore, co-parenting increases career opportunities for both parents. Girls often get married before going to university or during initial years of university. They become mothers before ^{their} graduation. Absence of supportive husband can force them to quit their studies or take leaves from university which affect their studies. Co-parenting can help them to carry on their studies and achieve good grades. Noon-ul-Ain Aftab, a mother of two,

was able to qualify the CSS exam - she told to the world that his husband was big support for her in her journey. Therefore, co-parenting can help parents to pursue their dreams.

In addition to that, co-parenting can help parents to achieve work-life balance. It helps both parents to balance work loads with house-hold and children responsibility. Both parents would be able to manage their job times that help them to meet their professional deadlines and personal commitment. Spending time with family also gives mental pleasure. This also enhances workplace productivity. According to study published in the Journal of Family Issues, couples who share parenting duties show lower stress levels and better time management. Hence, shared parental responsibility can help parents to fulfil their parental and professional responsibility in a befitting way.

Besides, co-parenting can enhance the understanding between father and mother that strengthens the family bond when both parents

play each other's role then they will realize the hardships associated to each other's role. This would enhance affection between them. It also improves communication between both parents. Both parents require constant coordination about schedules, discipline and decision making. It also reduces conflict among them. The American Academy of Pediatrics reports that sharing highs and lows of parenting creates empathy and solidarity between parents. Therefore, co-parenting strengthens family structure.

In a nutshell, both parents should assume the responsibility of raising a child because it is beneficial for both child and parents at individual as well as collective levels. Parents would be able to live their own life as well as better rear their children. Some steps should be taken to promote co-parenting. This can include enlightening couples about its benefits, legalizing paternity leaves, providing flexible schedules to married couples and prioritizing child well-being over ego and cultural stereotypes. A child requires love, affection and respect from both parents. A

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Child reared by single parent is like a bird flying with just one wing. It may be ^{able} to learn how to fly but it has to face double hardships. Children are reflections of their parents. Co-parenting them can help them to achieve better future; thus, making their parents proud.

