

The DILEMMA OF BEING GENZEE PARENTS

There are things that modern day parents do that makes me wonder if they know the implications. In my teaching career, I've come to realize that children who are well brought up produce better results. What I see these days is training the "butty" (aje butter) way which gets me scared of what will happen in the next 10-15 years. I see eight year olds who don't bother to lay their beds. I see 10 year olds served by the maid or "caring mum" on the table and they either don't pack the table or they just dump the plates in the kitchen for the maid or "caring mum". Drivers carry the bags of children above 5 years and the children call them "my driver". Manual cloth washing is gradually been replaced by washing machines yet the maid or "caring mum" will be the one to do the laundry. Children wake up and go straight to the TV and sleep late watching TV with mum and dad but mum and dad don't allow them read late. They'll say "go and sleep". I see parents play game for hours on their phones yet wonder why their children don't read and why their results are poor despite investment in expensive schools. I see tweenagers and teenagers who can't cook common white rice because there's maid, nanny, cook, "caring mum" etc. I see children who are addicted to cheating in exams, assignments, class work and the parents aren't taking conscious steps to correct it, instead some will bribe teachers to make their children first, teach them during external exams or take them to "miracle centers" to write their exams. I see children who talk to their parents and other adults disrespectfully and all parents say is "children of nowadays are outspoken". Your children's wardrobe is full of clothes but they don't have a single book. You buy them lots of toys but you didn't buy them books. I can go on and on. See, when next you tell your child not to do

house chores, study hard, etc, have it at the back of your mind that what you're saying is "don't take responsibility for your life".

I guess parents don't know that chores and morals are almost directly proportional to academic performance. Haven't you thought of it that when our forefathers went to farm, fetched water, etc, before or after school, the world was a better place? Haven't you thought of it that our local proverbs which have remained relevant were coined by unlettered men and women? A Hausa proverb says, "Ka so naka, duniya ta 'ki shi..." favour your son and the world will reject him..." (vice-versa). A Yoruba proverb also says, "eni a-nwo ki woeran".... "those who make news don't watch news". So when you're mentoring your children to be T.V. addicts you should understand what you're grooming them to be. There are TWO PAINS in life and everyone must suffer one; PAIN OF DISCIPLINE or PAIN OF REGRET. When you're preventing your children from going through pain of discipline, just understand that you're automatically preparing them for pain of regret. Some parents feel that their children's careers are secured because of their financial stand. Now, let's do this analysis:

You get your children a job. 2. You make them take over your company. 3. You set up a business for them. 1. If you get them a job and they have the wrong attitude at work like being late, talking rudely to clients, etc, which made the company lose a big contract, will they keep them there? 2. They take over your company and your company lost within three months an amount that you didn't make in your first five years in business due to their lack of discipline, will you pat them on the head and say I'm proud of you child? 3. They run the business shabbily and there's

nothing to show for it within few years. The earlier we stopped these pampering the better. You will give an account to God for them. Train your child in the way he should go and when he is old, he won't depart from it.

By Obafemi Hamzat, Lagos Deputy Governor





A PAMPERED CHILD WILL BECOME A SPOILT ADULT...

You will raise a broken adult if you give in to everything your child demands. If you can't discipline them today, we ready to take them to rehabilitation centers tomorrow. If you refuse to teach them at home, someone will teach them outside your home or even online, and be sure that the person wouldn't teach them what you wanted them to be taught. When spare the rod, you spoil the child. This rod is not the physical iron, but the arm of discipline that teaches a child that he or she will not always have his wish or his way. If you don't restrain them today, they will become perverts' tomorrow, and you will be their first victim. In a world that increasingly celebrates instant gratification, indulgence, and materialism, we must return to the timeless principles that form the bedrock of a healthy, thriving society; discipline. Discipline is not a relic of the past; it is a necessity for the future. It is the framework within which our children learn responsibility, respect, and resilience. Without it, we risk raising a generation ill-equipped to face the challenges of life. A child pampered without boundaries, without a sense of accountability, grows up with a distorted view of the world. They come to believe that their desires must always be met, that effort is unnecessary, and that respect is optional. Such a child is not prepared for the realities of adulthood, where success is earned, respect is reciprocal, and effort is indispensable. The absence of discipline in childhood often leads to broken adults, struggling to navigate a world that demands much more than they are prepared to give. Don't forget that

a pampered child will be one a spoilt adult. Know this and know peace

Discipline is not harshness or cruelty. It is a balanced approach that combines correction with compassion, boundaries with encouragement, and consequences with understanding. It is about teaching our children that actions have consequences, that effort brings rewards, and that respect for self and others is non-negotiable. It is about preparing them to be responsible, respectful, and resilient adults. Moreover, in this age of technology and material excess, we must remember to give our children God, not just gadgets. An iPhone can entertain, but it cannot instill values. A tablet can educate, but it cannot teach empathy. A computer can connect them to the world, but it cannot connect them to their Creator. We must anchor our children in faith, in the enduring values of love, kindness, and humility that transcend time and technology. As we raise our children, let us not shy away from the hard truths and necessary disciplines. Let us guide them with love, correct them with compassion, and set boundaries that protect and prepare them. Let us teach them the value of hard work, the importance of respect, and the power of faith. In doing so, we are not just raising children; we are building the foundation for a strong, just, and compassionate society.