

FAMILY

A family is a social unit or household consisting of one or two parents, children and close relatives compare to other species. It is a smallest unit in society and different families' merge or come together to form a society. Human beings develop slowly and require years of support and instructions before they are ready to be independent, this gradual process to mutuality that humans undertake may explain why human beings organize themselves into families like social system, therefore, a human beings is born in need of social support and grows up not only to like it but also seeks and work for it.

According to anthropologists, the ability to walk upright on two legs without arms enhanced the evolution of the human family as a social unit. Once human beings had their arms free, it become easier for them to co-operate and share especially caring and providing for the young.

The family pattern in which a man and a woman assumed special responsibility for their children emerged as a social group. Male and female worked together to protect the young against starvation and other changes. As males and females supplemented the efforts of the other, the survival of the young was enhanced, during this early time the females were mainly gatherers and males were hunters, today the family still serves similar functions as it did when it originated.

FAMILY SOCIALIZATION (PARENTING)

When discussing family socialization, we are focusing on the family members' interaction patterns. The pattern of socialization is seen in the way parents interact with their children.

Overprotective parents

This normally have very loving and close relationship with a child and does almost everything for his/her determines who the child should play with and fights his or her battles. As a result the child perceives himself as helpless and immature. He may be submissive, passive and dependant, he may learn to be responsible and may find it difficult to cope with problems of everyday life.

Permissive parents

These give the child few rules and rarely punish misbehavior. The child is given great respect and autonomy but often too much independence at too early an age. Parents fear hurting him by imposing their own attitudes on him. His jealousy for the young brother or sister is understood and his aggression is tolerated.

Authoritarian parents

This type gives strict rules to their children adolescent with little discussion of the reasons for the rules. It is because I say so approach. That rules authoritarian parents are openly critical of their children and frequently give those instructions on how to behave and are forced by punishing a child who does not obey.

Authoritative parents

These shows an authority figure to their children but provides good explanation for the rules and freely discusses the rules with children in allowing the children freely state their opinions about the rules and sometimes being persuaded to alter the rules by logical argument from them. Authoritative parents give children a greater sense of involvement in their own rules; emphasize reinforcement of appropriate behavior and affectionate warmth over punishment at all. In short it shows that their children are loved and respected but proved amount of authority that a child needs.

ACTIVITY

20. Discuss the different parenting styles and clearly show the relevance of each parenting style to our personality.