**Upgrading Indian Way of Parenting**

**Source: Meenakshi, Content Developer, Times of India**

Parenting is the bringing up of a child. It is like the nourishment that is necessary for a sapling to grow into a big tree. Hence, for a child to grow into a wonderful human being, good parenting is essential. Parenting styles vary from culture to culture, the value system stands divided on some of the major facets of parenting, exemplified by the comparison of the Indian style with that of the West. When a child is born, the first connection to the world is established through their mother, or in a broader sense, their parents. India is a land of diverse traditions, all rooted in the same value system. With the trend of joint families prevalent in India, a child is brought up in an environment where she learns to value people and relations. More than taking care of the physical growth of the child during her younger years, instilling moral values is more vital. Indian parents believe strongly that their child is part of a family and a community and that it is of prime importance that the child realizes that every decision they makes and every action they take consequences for the entire family and community.

**Tracing the leads**

Parents tend to exhibit variations based on a variety of factors, including culture, personality, parental background, educational level, socioeconomic status, family size, religion, etc. From a traditional point of view, most parenting styles tend to emanate from the way the parents themselves had been parented. However, this need not involve a repetition of similar parenting practices but could in contradiction involve discarding or avoiding such a repetition. This could simply be because these are the only practices of parenting that they have any knowledge about or with the intention of learning from one’s own parents’ mistakes or unconsciously relying on vicarious learning of the same.

**6 Ways How We Do It Now**

**1. Disregard for old / values & Traditions**

Most of the values and morals we’re instilling are influenced by the society, it’s high time to move on from ‘what will the people think?’ to ‘do what is right despite whatever people/society thinks’. Reality is we’re the society & the people we fear. Let’s set some new standards.

**2. Academics**

Number game is the centre of comparison. Stop comparing your kids. It’s time we realize there’s a difference between “well filled” and “well-formed mind”. We’re not Google, humanizing academics and supporting what our kid desires to be.

**3.** **Alternate religious / cultural views**

Looking at the current situation and standing strong by the word secularism we as parents need to instill a more liberal outlook towards society. We’re the fruits of the roots which take us back to the views like “Sarva Dharma Sambhava” (equal respect to all religions) and “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” ( the world is one family).

4. **Alternate career choices**

Parents even in today’s time vehemently opposes when their kids tell them that they want to be bloggers, photographers, writers, artists. Anything that doesn’t have job security is deemed too risky. As per WHO 1 in every 4 children in the age group of 13- 15 is depressed in India because they’re scared to confess their dreams. We need to talk and support.

**5. Lifestyle Choices**

Be it choosing a career or a life partner, Indian parents are too rigid in their approach. Everyone after a certain age desires for personal space, which we completely ignore. Being parents do not always hold the right to make decisions on your child’s behalf, rather be a parent who your child would want to discuss before taking any decision.

Let’s say yes to falling and failing, normalizing it, and starting over.

**6. Instilling Moral values**

We’ve been told over years that if we do good, good happen. But should, this is the criteria for a moral act. Let’s believe that, we must do well because it’s morally and ethically right.

**What about the need to equip children with a strong moral and ethical skill set?**

This would be the best way to ensure they grow up to contribute to society in a positive way. Unfortunately, confidence building, encouragement, and “heart to heart” conversation are not exactly staples of a “typical” Indian household. Indian parents strongly desire “all-star children,” with amazing grades, and a resume of admirable achievements. It’s time to create change in order to save our youth, and salvage what’s left of pride in the Indian community.

**Conclusion**

Treat your kid like a darling for the first five years. For the next five years, scold them. By the time they turn sixteen, treat them like a friend.