

The Concept Of Parenting

Sangeeta Kumari Baranwal

The Foundation of the growth of personality lies in the womb of the family, that refers to a group related to blood or marriage (English and English, 1958) constituted by a man, a woman and their socially recognised children in its nuclear and primary form (Harre and Lamb, 1983) and serves as an effective agent of socialization – a process of growing up and learning the norms of society where a child acquires a few workable assumptions about the world and is apt to become a competent and useful member of society. The child uses his parents as models for his adjustment to life and fundamental pattern once established at home, cannot be eradicated completely yet modified or changed as the child grows up. Relationship between the parents and the child happens to be a central factor in the social upliftment of the individual. Parents are supposed to create a most congenial, happy, democratic, lucid and warm atmosphere (Backer, 1964 and Erickson, 1974), where a child can blossom his own hidden potentialities and may also develop social interational skills (Bhardwaj, 1994).

Psycho-analysts have stressed the importance of early family experiences on the child's behavior and attitudes.

Parenting as the style of child upbringing refers to a previledg or responsibility of mother and father, together or independently to prepare the child for society and culture (Veenes, 1973a) which provides ample opportunity to a child to find roots, continuity and a sense of belonging (Sirohi and Chauhan, 1991) and also serves as an effective agent of socialization. The two distinctive roles of parents include both mothering and fathering.