

important than Deeni and moral development of the child.

ATTITUDE OF PARENTS

Most parents in these days Islāmically fail their children.

While they slog night and day for the worldly well-being and welfare of their children, scant regard is shown for the Deeni Ta'leem and Tarbiyah of their children. The domain of Akhlāq (Islāmic morals) has been largely excised from the lives of modernistic-ally inclined Muslim parents. As long as the children are materially provided for and their secular education attended to, parents are satisfied. Beyond this extremely short-sighted policy their imagination cannot dwell.

Instead of ensuring that their children remain in pious company or, as a last resort, in the home environment where pious company is not available, parents are not only content, but actually encourage their children to associate with bad friends and poor peers. The best period of their formative life is destructively squandered in the suhbat (company) of such friends.

Children are constrained by their parents to live in liberal and immoral school and

university environment for up to twenty years of the most delicate part of their lives. They mix with the opposite sex in co-ed school.

While parents are too engaged in their worldly pursuits, their children are involved in immoral pursuits of the cults and cultures of society to which they are being exposed. What Akhlāq, what Islāmic character can be expected of such children? How can intelligent Muslims expect such children to be obedient to their parents and obedient to the laws of Allah Ta'āla?

The logical consequences of such evil exposure is moral ruin, scepticism, atheism and delinquency.

There is then no surprise when children display all traits and characteristics of the kuffār.

It is imperative to understand that the basic cause of delinquency, disobedience and immorality prevalent among Muslim children of this age is PARENTS who have abdicated their office of parenthood by shirking the parental obligations towards their children.o

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PARENTS DUTIES TO CHILDREN

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Disobedience to parents has become an epidemic problem in the Muslim community. In this regard Muslims have followed in the footsteps of other communities among whom the dividing line between children and parents is extremely feint if not completely non-existent.

Delinquency is on the increase alien cultures and cults have made their impact on Muslim society. The embrace of Westernization by Muslims have introduced all the evils of that culture into Muslim homes thus bringing ruin to the holy moral fabric of Muslim society.

COMPLAINTS OF PARENTS

Parents are complaining of the gross disobedience of their children. From an early age the modern Muslim child displays his traits of rebellion against parental authority. By the time the child is a teenager there exists hardly any parental control. The child is misbehaved, displays misconduct, is rude to parents and indifferent to the demands of Islām.

The behaviour exhibited by children in these times creates the idea of them being the parents and the parents the

children. Children dictate the terms of their desire and parents meekly comply. Most parents in this modern age are on the defensive when they have to confront the misdemeanours of their children. In fact, parents have become scared for the reactions of their children in the event of any confrontation with them.

Parents those who still have some religious feelings, complain about the immoral behaviour of their children; they bemoan the irreligious attitude and slack ties which their children have with Islām. When the child ultimately takes the plunge into total moral and spiritual ruin by drugs or 'marrying' a non-Muslim to whom the parents are violently opposed, the world of the parents comes to a crushing end.

They slaved for the education and well-being of their child. They left no stone unturned to make their child comfortable and successful on earth, yet they are now tortured with their beloved child's moral collapse and ruin. The child renounces and denounces his parents who can now shed only tears of sorrow, grief and disappointment.

When parents are faced with the gross disobedience and obstinacy of their teenage children, they wish and pray that their children will understand the gravity

of the sin of disobedience to parents. They may even try to give their children lectures about Islām's emphasis on obedience to parents. Some will approach others to speak and reason with the disobedient children and to make them aware of the punishment for disobeying parents. Different ways and means are explored in an attempt to bring the errant children to their senses, but all to no avail. Once the child has chosen a particular path of evil or disobedience which in his mind is the only correct way, he/she will walk in that direction regardless of the protests, threats and laments of his/her parents. These are daily incidents which are on the increase.

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

The rights of children are not confined to the worldly and material well-being. Parents labour under the impression that as long as they have fulfilled their duty to their children with regard to food, clothes, shelter, worldly comfort and secular education they have fully discharged the rights of their children. But these provisions are only part of Huqooq (rights) which the Shar'iah imposes on parents. Of far greater importance than worldly and material comfort and benefit is the Deeni Tarbiyah (training) of children. Nothing is more