

"Parents are responsible for the misconduct of their children." How far do you agree with this situation?

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"That's it! I have enough of you. I am going to call your parents to tell them how defiant you are!" I accidentally overheard a teacher's conversation with a student when I passed by the staff lounge one day. Somehow, I began to wonder if calling the parents would help. Are parents solely responsible for the misconduct of their children? Honestly speaking, I really doubt so. Indeed, parents have to play an important part in disciplining their children, especially from young. However, they are not fully responsible for the misconduct of their children because there are other contributing factors such as school, peer pressure and media influence.

Firstly, I feel that next to their homes, the children spend most of their time in school where they face all sorts of challenges, such as coping with academic pressure. Moreover, our society is becoming increasingly competitive. Needless to say, children would constantly have to acquire more knowledge and skills so as to meet the increasing demands. In addition, the school authorities and teachers are naturally even more stressed out especially when their job is to prepare students for their future careers. Hence, this may unknowingly cause them to appear rather short-tempered or even unreasonable at times. Indirectly, this may result in conflicts between teachers and students due to communication breakdown. Gradually, unhappiness or dissatisfaction may arise and students may just turn rebellious, defying their teachers whenever they can.

Of course, not every child has the temerity to defy their teachers though there may be a few bolder ones. Generally, during conflicts, students usually get friends to back them up. Not surprisingly, peer pressure is another reason why children misbehave. If they are alone, they may not be so daring as to go against an adult, such as the teacher. They usually form cliques before rebelling. This is probably why some youths join gangs before a fight, and this is getting pretty common nowadays. By flipping through the newspapers, it is not difficult to find reports of casualty due to gang fights. Most of the time, the rebellious character of a child is formed partly due to peer pressure. They tend to view it as a form of unity or bond among their peers. Nevertheless, they do not see the other side of the coin. Usually, they do not consider the consequences of their actions.

Furthermore, media influence can also create a very strong impact on children. Violent shows, catchy advertisements, lively animations may all be extremely powerful tools to capture the minds and therefore imagination of youngsters nowadays. Worse still, with the introduction of the internet and mobile phones, children have greater options of what they want to do in their free time. It is rather rare these days to see parents and children really sit down and communicate with one another. Unlike in the past, when people are generally less busy, parents now have heavier workloads and thus are unable to spare much time for their children. This causes the children to spend more time on media resources as well. For instance, viewing an hour of violent movie can actually capture the minds of children and may cause them to imitate some of the moves. Some, after viewing a few minutes of a long advertisement, may become tempted to

either purchase what they have been urged to buy or act out the entire commercial. One may find this funny or rather exaggerated but aren't all these things happening to the children nowadays? How can we expect the parents to be able to discipline their children really well with all these external influences?

In conclusion, I feel that parents are not fully responsible for the misdemeanors of their children even though they ought to play an important role. Children nowadays may be a little tougher to discipline due to a confluence of many factors. Each of these many not seem powerful on its own but when combined together, become powerful forces of influence.