



7. Conclusão

Geralmente, dar demasiado mimos e utilizar atitude simples e indelicada não são métodos para educar os filhos. Criar filhos é diferente com suportar animal de estimação, além de suportar, é necessário educar.

Os pais devem compreender, os filhos vêm dos pais, os pais podem dar o amor deles, mas depois de nascimento, os filhos têm a própria vida. Ficar no mesmo barco com alguém é a sorte de dez mil anos, dormir com alguém é a sorte de cem mil anos. As pessoas terem relação familiar é um destino raro, por isso, é necessário apreciá-lo, valorizá-lo e tê-lo em grande conta.

Amor e comunicação são claramente chaves para estabelecer bom relacionamento entre pais e filhos. Os pais devem conhecer bem os filhos e

assim podem ter boas relações com eles. Uma relação saudável entre pais e filhos é criada passo a passo, isto é, os filhos precisam tempo para conhecer os pais, os pais também devem saber os filhos gradualmente. Como o tempo passa, as pessoas mudam conforme o tempo.

Mais amor, menos queixa, vamos juntamente de fins comuns, criar família em harmonia, estabelecer sociedade pacífica, contribuindo para incutir melhor próximas gerações.

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Em, "Pais Perfeitos", Nº 19, Maio, 2007

04 Parents' dealing with their rebellious Adolescent children

Most parents find it very perturbing when dealing with their rebellious adolescent children.

There is a saying "the original nature of man is good" and many parents also admit that their children did behave well when they were small. However, as time goes by, especially at their adolescence, they suddenly seem to be very disobedient and the level and situation of their rebelliousness go greatly beyond the parents' expectation.

Is it a problem of the epoch or a question of "generation gap"? Are the children not well cared for? All these doubts need our help to come to a solution.

I. The position of children in the family is changing

It is believed that many Macau parents were brought up during the sixties and seventies of the last century. At that time, the economy of Macau was not thriving. Many families were not wealthy at all and some even "dragged their days" in poverty. As for families with quite many children, the kids did not hold any important place. It was especially true when the parents were busy for making a living. Bearing a conservative tradition in mind, their love for their offspring was always buried deep in the heart and seldom be manifested openly. At that time, most of the children were quite filially devoted to their parents and dared not rebel against their parents' words even if they did not feel like agreeing to. Should there be anything they need from their father or mother, they would plead with fright, fearing that they would anger their parents and their request was never too much.

However, those children are adults now. Being parents in the era of low birth rate and children's right well treasured, they cherish their own kids whole-heartedly from their birth, offering incessantly material comfort and yielding to their any demand, meaning to compensate what they failed to obtain when they were young. For them, their children are just their "own life". As time goes by, being doted on too much, they are totally spoiled when they grow older. They do not want to listen to their parents any more. It will be especially serious at their adolescence when they become rebellious. No matter how hard their parents have tried, they still fail to make them listen to any request of theirs.

Children of different era have a different position in the family and this sure affects the method of parents' teaching.

II. Inappropriate family education makes children more rebellious

Some rebellious adolescents never acquired appropriate family education from

small, therefore they ignore the presence of their parents. This is the result of the chance to communicate with them. There are cases that the situation is so bad that the family is always at loggerheads with each other. Some parents play dumb and suffer in silence. However, when the condition goes too much beyond the limit, they will exert all their efforts to "wrestle" with them. Others do not want to be the opponents of their children and adopt the practice of position exchange. The parents will be the "Children" and the children will play the "Parents". Then the fathers are loving and the mothers obedient resulting in the state of the parents being controlled by their adolescent children. Eventually, the matter of children teaching does affect greatly the emotion in between the husband and wife of the family.

III. "Cooling down" helps the parents to be calm in facing the problem

It is not easy at all in dealing with the rebellious adolescents. Many parents try to be "tolerant" and avoid disputes. They practise the greatest patience and show "leniency" in life trivialities, but will take measures for the matters concerning academic performance, living habits and outdoor activities. The problem is that the youngsters are so insensible that they become over insatiable and are totally unrepresentable. Though the behaviour of the unruly adolescents does arouse intolerance, the parents have to leave aside their authority and wrath, and make cordial dialogues with them. There is a saying "It takes more than one cold day for the river to freeze three feet deep". All the undesirable behaviour and unacceptable habits cannot be corrected at once and it takes some time to have them rectified step by step. Parents should never withdraw from educating and let them run their course even after long teaching.



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Both the adults and the children have self-respect. When in anger, parents please do not take themselves to be "the being high above", but see that their children also need a "platform" to step down and a chance to correct. Even if the children are very unbearable, they still deserve some "respect", especially in front of the relatives and friends. Never believe a public reproach will help things out. Harsh words only make both sides suffer and may even cause the children to be more rebellious.

No matter what happens, parents should first "cool" themselves down and never strike at once. Allow the anger to subside and see if what we do is just trying to convert the children or we are merely losing our temper. If we calm ourselves down for the benefit of the children, we will think of a way to deal with the situation. Try to abandon prejudice, listen joyfully and accept the feelings of our children. On the other hand, parents may also tell the children their own difficulties, allowing them to share their problems as well.

IV. Offer the children more respect, love, time and space

Though there is a saying "a faulty father bears children without educating them", to give proper guidance and education to the adolescents, parents do need to offer a lot: more respect, love, time and space. Eventually, parents have to support their children, confirm their position and value in the family, "praise" their merits no matter how trivial they are and advise them to correct their shortcomings (even though these shortcomings are not small at all).

Please always bear in mind "be understanding, affectionate and preserving". In dealing with adolescents, parents have to practise both "education through love" and "strong discipline". In the process of exertion, be calm and communicate, talk with them the interpersonal relationships and the worldly wisdom to let them see the philosophy of life. Talk harmoniously and softly to touch the heart of the children to help them to feel the truth, understand the reason of their parents' educating them. Should the children hold unruly behaviours, parents and children should collaborate and find a way to tackle the matter with patience and perseverance. Many children tend to start off the conversion with vigor, but fail to make it through. They just forget what they have promised and fail to resist the objective temptations so that they act as before after a few days. Parents please do not be discouraged and understand that this is a due procedure before arriving at success. The doctrine of the mean is always the best policy offering both sides enough space for adjustment.

Of course, parents are the models of their children. Parents need to be clear in executing award and penalty, kindness and discipline, allowing their children to learn the principle of law and discipline, logic and sense from their "little societies". Children who are being loved and respected during their adolescence may not be rebellious. Instead, they will overcome their adolescence easily and grow up healthily.

V. Lead the children go through their "Peer Culture" of adolescence

The adolescents of the present time do have their own "Culture": "Friends are greater than Heaven". This thought is prevalent among them and the impact is enormous. They bury all their energy, time and money to chase after movie stars, to go shopping, making net-friends, playing ICQ and writing blogs. Other times they would stay frolicking in the streets or fast food stores in groups of three or five. It is only when they are in need of money or other similar objects that they would make active communication with their parents.

The above logic may not really make children unruly but will often tempt them to neglect their studies. The fact is that unsatisfactory academic results sure make their parents burn with anxiety and more words of complaint will come. As for children, they will then find the adults very annoying being garrulous all the time but refuse to listen to them.

Many parents cannot stand the current culture of their children and often reproach them or try to isolate them from the modern practice.

In fact, not all the current culture of the children is negative, e.g. mutual trust among friends, playing ICQ, writing blogs, or even chasing after movie stars may have their positive side. Holding a new sign of the times, parents should not just deny them all.

The more optimistic method of dealing with it is that the parents try to change themselves first and grow with their children, accept new facts and things and take move to learn them, leading their children to face the current culture together. It is necessary for the parents to be acquainted with their children's classmates and even their parents. It is proper to encourage the classmates to come to their house and do their assignments together to give them time and space to be together to lessen the chance of lingering in the streets. Parents do not have to show objection at once but may discuss the merits of the star, his/her effort to success, helping them to be a rational "fan", rather than just indulge in chasing idols. Try to install the computer in the sitting room, so that the parents may observe how the children do their net surfing, blog writing, ICQ playing and assignment doing. Should the parents be keen on computer operation, well, the machine will form a good device for parenting and communication. As for hair styles and clothes, if they are not too exaggerating, do not force them to take after the parents' fashion. Offer them to participate cultural, artistic or sport activities with the children while caring for their difficulties in learning with words of encouragement and support. Help them to practice time arrangement so that they have enough time for revision. Never criticize their own children as stupid,.....

With proper and timely guidance, parents may talk friendly instead of enjoining, perform discussion instead of scolding, practise sharing instead of investigation and take up encouraging words instead of complaints. Rational communications will let the children perceive the love and care of their father and mother. This may lessen the children's chance of giving negative comments of "troublesome" and "long-winded" in describing the nature of their parents.

All in all, the purpose of letting the children sense the parents' respect and care is to offer them a healthy path to go through their adolescence.

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VI. Parents have to keep adjusting themselves

When the children become rebellious and unruly, parents may hold various modes of sentiments. Some may feel guilty and blame themselves for having been too busy at their work, spending no time to communicate with their children and in turn offer money to their offspring as compensation or just pamper them willingly. Some will indulge their children, fearing that they would be frustrated and will ever be their "sworn support". In fact, merely allowing the children, specially those who are in their adolescence, to cause trouble with the parents taking full responsibility for their behaviour, will lure them into continuous discipline violation and will eventually arrive at an incorrigible situation. Others will enforce their own subjective desire of accomplishment on their children or bear the hope of their kids would achieve their unrealized wish, like having no chance to learn to play the piano, and force their children to have piano lessons. Should the kids really like piano playing, then there would be no problem at all. If the children find no interest in it, then dispute will appear and soon continuous disagreement between the two generations will occur. How can the children grow healthily in such a tumultuous atmosphere? The parents should first untie their own unfinished complex, adjust their own psychological situation and then guide their children with the correct and confident reasons. It is only when the parents keep adjusting themselves that they are able to face the ever changing world and the problem to be met in raising their children.

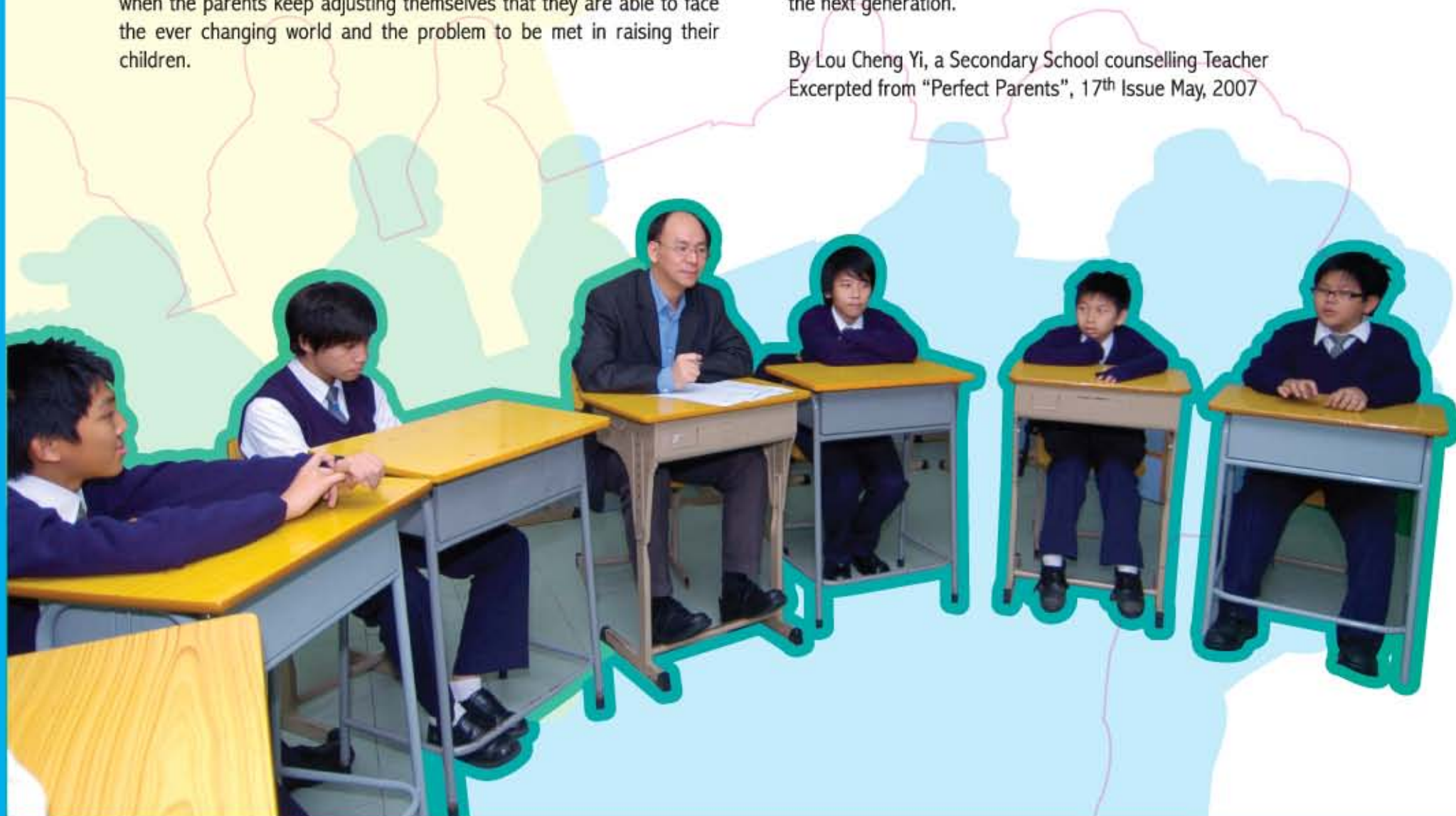
VII. Conclusion

All in all, being too indulgent and too lenient or just trying to be violent and strict are never the attitude of raising children. Rearing children is very different from keeping pets because besides feeding them, we have to educate them.

Parents please see that though you have given them life and you may offer them all your love. The matter is that the moment when they are born they have become another unique being. It is said that "Only once in a hundred years that two persons are lucky enough to share the same boat and once in a thousand years that two individuals will share the same bed". If fortune provides you with a child, that is destiny and luck, and it is proper to value, cherish and treasure him/her. Care, love and communication are the only way to establish fine parenting relationship. Parents have to understand their own children in order to nourish a harmonious relationship. The bond of love has to be consolidated through time. Children need time to know their parents and parents, too, need time to do likewise. Time runs on and man's growth will also have its way accordingly.

Offer more love and give less harsh words! Let us go hand in hand to create harmonious families, to build a harmonious society for the benefit of the next generation.

By Lou Cheng Yi, a Secondary School counselling Teacher
Excerpted from "Perfect Parents", 17th Issue May, 2007



教育文摘

出版：教育暨青年局 / 统筹：苏朝晖 / 总编辑：关启佳 / 编辑：冯万雄 张子明 / 美工支援：尉凤君 / 设计：领域市场策划 / 摄影：李正华 / 葡文翻译：邝昀 / 英文翻译：何刘一星 / 承印：华辉印刷有限公司 / 数量：五仟份

Educação e Nós

Editor : Direcção dos Serviços de Educação e Juventude / Director : Sou Chio Fai / Chefe de Redacção : Kwan Kai Kai / Redacção : Fong Man Hung, Cheong Chi Meng / Apoio Artístico-Técnico : Wai Fong Kuan / Design : Nova Idea Marketing Communications / Fotografia : Lei Cheng Wa / Tradução para Língua Portuguesa : Kuong Wan / Tradução para Língua Inglesa : Maria Ho / Impressão : Welfare Printing Limited / Tiragem : 5,000 exemplares

Educational Digest

Publisher : Education and Youth Affairs Bureau / Director : Sou Chio Fai / Editor-in-Chief : Kwan Kai Kai / Editors : Fong Man Hung, Cheong Chi Meng / Art Support : Wai Fong Kuan / Design : Nova Idea Marketing Communications / Photography : Lei Cheng Wa / Translator (Portuguese) : Kuong Wan / Translator (English) : Maria Ho / Printing : Welfare Printing Limited / Print Run : 5,000