

Article

# “A Person is a Trunk With Own Roots” or How Families Build People up

Erika Arustamova <sup>1</sup>

1. ESL (English as a Second Language) Instructor Innovative Centre Samarkand, Uzbekistan

\* Correspondence: [erikaarustamova782@gmail.com](mailto:erikaarustamova782@gmail.com)

**Abstract:** The article covers the question of right bringing up as well as family circumstances influencing the mindset of a child and triggering future actions of cruelty or virtue. It also exemplifies the cases of criminals, whose violency was born by the family conditions they had to face and what exactly facilitated the formation of their mindset as well as the psychological and religious connections with the family relationship.

**Keywords:** psychology, family, criminals, formation of mindset, methods of bringing up, dictatorship, cooperation, non-interference, guidenship, cruelty, separation process.

## 1. Introduction

Families are like branches on a tree, we grow in different directions, yet our roots remain as one [13]. There is no doubt that the future of a child is determined during childhood, where parents are the main contributors to the vital path. However, families vary from one to another as well as the personalities of children they bring up. What if it is the parental guilt to bring up criminals putting cruelty in their mindsets via the bringing up, or is it up to outside influencers to make greater input? **Literature review**

### Psychological aspect

The nature of emotional relationship of parents to the child can be called the parental position [8]. As it is mentioned in the article of Alexander Pugachev, family is the bridge between a child and his future life and it is the parental responsibility to create a person who can be responsible and ready for staying stable. He emphasizes that the methods of bringing up also play a significant role in the relationship between a child and parents. As an example, strict parents, putting boundaries to a child, are usually lied to by their own offspring and the major part of a future teenager's life is hidden from them. On the contrary, tender-hearted parents, who are craving to have friendly relationships with children, are told almost everything by their kids without any fear of being punished for failures or immature decisions.

So generally he emphasized 4 main types of parent-child connection:

- dictatorship
- guardianship
- “non-interference”
- cooperation

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### Analyses and Results

1. **Dictatorship.** Parents put too much pressure on children through punishments, high requirements and expectations as well as limit some opportunities of children ignoring their preferences, taking them as “useless wishes”.

**Result:** commonly, children rebel during the period of teenagerhood, will be unable to make their own decisions without parental approvals and rely on society judgments.

2. **Guardianship.** It is assumed that this type of relationship considers total care of a child without giving them chances to make their own choices or tackle insignificant problems by themselves. In the other words, it produces conditions of overprotection, which is usually an extra measure.

**Result:** children are unprepared for future life as well as for the stage of psychological separation [9] from parents, they grow up into egoistic adults without abilities to stand up for themselves.

3. **Non-interference.** There is a line drawn between parents and children, which separates two different worlds from each other. As a rule, parents do not interfere much in the lives of children, unless it is an urgent matter.

**Result:** children are way more mature than their peers are, their adaptation to future self-dependent will definitely go smoother, however, they are deprived of parental care and love, so do try to find and deserve the expression of love from outsiders.

4. **Cooperation.** The method, where the friendly relationship takes the leading position. Parents treat their children as less mature peers and are able to share family secrets (even those which the children are too young for). The base of this method is trust and friendship.

**Results:** although, it can be considered as the best method in bringing up, sometimes children feel the absence of an “adult person” in their lives, as their parents are constantly taking the places of their friends. Children are parentified [6] since early age, in spite of having both parents in family.

All in all, there is no perfect method to pick for coordinating an offspring, unless combining them all with the sense of right measurement. Otherwise, the consequences of each method result in immaturity, dependency of society opinion, parentification or egoism.

### Criminal aspect

“He was an illegitimate child who had never known a biological father. His 20-year-old mother, Mary, was unable to take care of the sickly, retarded boy, and in 1930, at the peak of the Great Depression, she began to give her son into the care of anyone who was willing to take care of him. After that, the boy moved from place to place, from school to school, unable to form basic family values or get a good education.” [10]

That is the description of one the most dangerous serial killers in the USA in the middle of 20th century- Luis Harvey Karinyan. He serves as a bright example for thousands of the same cases, where the absence of proper family care or severe

circumstances faced by a child convert them into a mentally unstable person in the future. It does depend on the severity of conditions themselves, as particular events in childhood can result in the lack of self-confidence or personal autonomy, while the others damage mental health to the level of psychological problems.

However, there are exceptions to the remark. One of the most famous criminals - **Ted Bundy [11]** in his interview mentioned that his violence has nothing to do with family. He also added that his mother used to be always kind and supportive, the family was pretty religious and attended the church on Sundays, children got brilliant upbringing and education.

## Discussion

### Religious aspect

“The family is the foundational institution of society ordained by God. It is constituted by marriage and is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption. The family is a fundamental institution of human society.” [12]

According to the article “Role of Religion: How Religion Affects Family Relationships” [5] there are some points of the religion-family connection outlined as spiritual support and harmony.

**Spiritual support.** As family members follow the same religion, they account for numerous reasons to spend more time together as religious events or holidays. Even though, families can find other common points for communication, religious aspects can also significantly push them closer.

**Harmony.** Solid religious rules followed by all family members outline common values, one of them is the value of prioritizing family and respecting older generations, which may positively influence the family relationship. However, it also emphasizes negative development religion may cause to the family ties as intolerance and lack of autonomy.

**Intolerance.** It is often the case, when older generations follow one religion, while their offsprings may choose to follow another. It can't be said that all religious people are tolerant to other religions except their own, so this change of spiritual priorities may trigger a discord between family members.

**Lack of autonomy.** Based on previous negative factor, some children may be discouraged from choosing another religion regardless of their will, as family members have initially programmed children for one branch only. Hence, children repress their own desires connected to their own spiritual way, as the voice of older generations play a more significant role.

To conclude, in retrospect to ancient times, when religious branches have just appeared, it has always had numerous common moments to connect to inner family life. Although religion is a facilitating factor to strengthen family relationships, there are still some negative points, which may spoil relationships regardless of the purity of intentions and belief.

## Conclusion

Based on numerous examples provided above, it can be assumed that family is the main contributor to the formation of personality and their consequences of future life. Although, it is quite a tricky question to pick the “right” way of bringing up, as nothing exists with inner shortages, there are still some ways to prevent children from failing to

handle their future by combining several methods according to the character of the child and family circumstances.

Another point worth outlining is that destiny of a child both mental and vital, is based and caused by parents, so in the majority of cases even the most cruel criminals are justified due to unfavorable family conditions and traumatic childhood.

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