

The Unmatched Role of the "Father" in Family and Child Upbringing

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Abstract: This article provides insights into how the relationship between father and child evolves throughout life. It also discusses the unmatched role of fathers in the upbringing of children within the family and society.

Keywords: behavior, upbringing, respect, knowledge, skills, risk-taking, experience, adherence to traditions, provision.

The father-child relationship is one of the most important and influential relationships within the family. These relations play a significant role in shaping the child's personality and their social, emotional, and psychological development. A strong father-child relationship helps the child develop self-respect, social adaptability, and leads to a happy life.

Being a father means the creation of a new life, providing protection under your wings, offering hope, and guiding a small being to reach out to you. As the day approaches when a man becomes a father, an unusual excitement fills him. Men often try to hide this excitement and refrain from expressing it openly. However, when the good news arrives, a smile spreads across their face, and they find themselves speechless. The title of man now includes the word "father."

To be a father means to brighten the innocent eyes of a child, to walk alongside them on the path of life, and to be there for them, truly.

It means embracing a tender leaf with its branches, nourishing it with its veins, observing the wind's strength, and ensuring its survival as a parent.

Fatherhood is about placing a hand on the child's shoulder, gently patting their back, kissing their forehead, and showing compassion toward the fragile being.

It is about standing strong until the very end, never surrendering, never falling into despair, staying firm on your feet, showing courage, and if necessary, sacrificing your life.

The father-child relationship changes over time. As the child grows, their needs, emotions, and views evolve, and so does the father-child relationship. The father can influence the child in different ways at each stage of life because the interactions and relationships between them take different forms in each period.

In infancy and early childhood: During this period, the father is the first and most important role model for the child. As the child begins to explore the world, the father provides protection, love, and support. Above all, the father creates a safe environment for the child, which plays a crucial role in shaping the child's worldview. Furthermore, the father significantly influences the child's emotional development, teaching them to love and accept themselves. During this time, the child's relationship with the father shapes their sense of self and how they build relationships with others.

In adolescence: Adolescence is a time when the child strives for independence, and the father-child relationship goes through several trials. Teenagers often try to separate themselves from their parents to establish their own personal boundaries and beliefs. During this period, the father makes an effort to

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understand the child's behavior, connect with their inner world, and provide the right guidance. The father's advice and support are very important during this phase since adolescents often feel lost and struggle with external influences and changes. The father must show patience, wisdom, and love to help the child deal with challenges and meet their evolving needs.

Thus, the relationship between father and child develops along with the child's growth and changes in different stages of life. Each age has its own unique, evolving, and specific characteristics, and father-child relationships continually encounter new challenges and opportunities.

In our culture, there are many proverbs like "If the father is pleased, God is pleased," "Don't climb on the roof of the house where your father sits," "A good child gives strength to the father, a bad child brings calamity," and "A good child brings honor to the house, a bad child brings disgrace." These proverbs help reduce conflicts between fathers and children. Since these proverbs were created in ancient times, deeply embedded in the national mentality, they serve as necessary moral norms that regulate social life.

In Uzbek folk tales, we often see wise fathers and children who succeed by following their fathers' guidance, as well as stories of children who stray from their father's advice and face the consequences. As M. Gorky said, "There is nothing in the world that does not serve as an example, and no tale without didactic lessons."

However, when the topic of child upbringing arises, the focus often shifts to mothers, while the father remains overlooked and forgotten. Despite the fact that a child is brought into the world because of the father, the term "parent-teacher meetings" is used in schools, yet the father's role is often neglected. The father is often perceived as a distant, strict figure who does not show affection, does not indulge, and expects obedience, while leaving the emotional burden to the mother.

Is the father's role merely to provide food and shelter? Of course not! Today, society has come to the conclusion that "In the matter of upbringing, the father provides things that the mother cannot. The roles of both parents are different, but they complement each other. Only with their collaboration can a child's personality be properly formed."

While a child sees the mother as an endless source of love, the father is seen as the guiding figure in life. The mother is the source of warmth for the child, while the father is the one who shows the path.

The father is the one who encourages the child to understand the world and gives them a form. However, the father is not just a guide, but also a figure who monitors and sets boundaries. The mother's love is unconditional and limitless, whereas the father's love is built on expectations, usually given based on the child's achievements.

The father is the symbol of rules and discipline. Only the father can ensure the proper development of both sons as men and daughters as women.

When the father's role is reduced to mere provision or punishment, the balance in upbringing is disturbed.

The father's advantage in upbringing is that he sees the entire environment as a learning field. He shows the child the practical application of cause and effect. He teaches the child to find unusual solutions to ordinary problems, which helps broaden their mind. The father ensures that the child is toughened through challenges.

Through the father, the child learns:

Initiative.

The ability to resist the pressures of life.

Emotional resilience.

Responsibility for their words.

Not falling into despair.



The ability to escape difficult situations.

Setting high goals.

The ability to turn situations in their favor.

However, some fathers hide their love for their children, keeping it locked away like a treasure. All fathers love their children, but many do not know how to express this love, or they are afraid to show it. Many fathers believe that there is no need to show extra affection because the children will know their care through their actions. This is like saying that a plant will grow without sunlight. While it is true that a plant may grow without sunlight, it will remain weak, have no fruit, or if it does, it will be unripe. This mindset is the foundation of an error in child upbringing. If a child does not feel "loved" during their childhood, they will not know the feelings of "loving" and "being loved" in the future.

The love is reflected in the eyes. Frequent eye contact is crucial for understanding emotional experiences. A child must be taught from a young age to read the emotions of adults through their gaze. A wise father feels what is going on in the child's heart by looking into their eyes during conversations. Based on these feelings, he can anticipate the child's future actions. By creating a loving and emotionally rich world around himself and the child, the father builds a strong foundation for the child's confidence in themselves and others. If the child's need for love from the father and mother is not met, the child will feel unnecessary and defenseless. These children grow up to be fearful, insecure, and dissatisfied with life.

This type of affection requires patience, tolerance, and attention. Nowadays, fathers don't have time to communicate with their children because they consider having a home, a car, and a luxurious lifestyle to be more important. They are mistaken. It is well-known that Alisher Navoi lived and worked in a complex situation when the Timurid dynasty was in decline and crisis. He witnessed the internal wars between the Timurids, where fathers and sons, brothers, and relatives killed each other without mercy. Although young, he understood the tragic fate of his father, Padharkush Abdullatif, and witnessed his unfortunate destiny. He deeply cared for the fate of his close friend, Husayn Bayqara, so that his life would not meet the same tragic end.

A significant part of Alisher Navoi's life and work was dedicated to improving the relationship between fathers and children, especially among the Timurids, as is evident from historical sources today. In his works "Tarikh-i muluki Ajam" and "Khamsa," the poet emphasizes the relationship between fathers and sons. Particularly significant in this regard are his epics "Hayrat-ul Abror," "Farhod va Shirin," and "Saddi Iskandariy." In these works, Navoi specifically mentions the sons of Husayn Bayqara, Badiuzzaman and Muzaffar Mirza, urging them to show respect and reverence towards their father.

The relationship between father and son plays a crucial role in helping the child understand themselves and shape their attitude toward life. These relationships:

Influence emotional and psychological development: Strong and trusting connections with the father help the child feel calm and safe. The child feels accepted and loved, which boosts their self-confidence.

Ensure psychological stability: A father who responds to the emotional needs of the child, provides support, and offers advice helps the child manage stress and solve problems.

The father's role is of great importance in the child's development. A father is not only the head of the family but also a person who supports the child's psychological, social, and emotional growth and guides them in life. Strong, trusting, and sincere relationships between father and son help the child grow into a healthy and happy individual. A father teaches respect for oneself, social values, and builds a solid foundation for success in life



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