

# *Holding Parents Responsible – For What?*

*(Who's Parenting Our Parents?)*

By Michael Mendizza



(Responding to the president's statements regarding parent responsibility)

Yes - Mr. President, we need to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps – if we have boots. Yes - we are - each and every one of us - responsible, no excuses. However, the level at which we are able to respond is developmental and human development is 'experience dependent.'

Our expectation of a five-year-old taking responsibility is different at twelve or twenty year old. This is developmental. Why do we think parenting is any different? Becoming a parent is a developmental stage of growth and personal development just as challenging as a two-year-old learning to walk or talk. Falling down for lack of mentored support however, is judged far less harshly and is far less damaging at two than it is at eighteen failing as a new parent.

Yes – Mr. President parents are responsible. But today's parents can only give back to life what they have experienced. Look around. If a young mother has only experienced exploitive, aggressive men in her life, if she was abused, betrayed, never really felt safe, accepted, has always being compared, judged, which is implicit in our homes, media and throughout public education, now even in preschool, how will she know what it feels like to nurture her baby - never having been really nurtured herself?

Nature intends, and has been based for millennia, on parents and the immediate family providing the model-experience upon which child development rests. Until very recently this was the case. The experience family represented for tens of thousands of years bears little resemblance to the compulsory mass-education, televised, computerized, liberated woman, media marinated, two or three income family of today. The experiences and the forces that shape the experiences that shape human beings is not what it used to be, partly by chance, partly by design.

It is well documented. The founding fathers of public education (and the private foundations-money that supported them) understood that family represented a major obstacle to social conditioning, dare I say engineering. Breaking the family bond was necessary to homologize and domesticate the industrial and now post industrial society. Young men, and thanks to women's' liberation most young women, by necessity, now trot off to work, generating taxable income, leaving the experienced mentoring of the next critical generation to state trained, certified and controlled professionals – by design.

What the social funders and their engineers failed to appreciate was how breaking the family bond, the loss of trusted mentors and collapse of experience based parenting skills would undermine the social, emotional, sexual and cognitive foundation of our society.

Yes – Mr. President we are - each and every one of us - responsible, no excuses. Today being responsible means that those who have the experience, at every level society, must honor, support, enrich, mentor and celebrate the scantily of the parent-child experience. This means Mr. President that continuing parent development is viewed, values and supported as highly as continuing child development.

Let's face it. Kids are NOT the Problem!

The next frontier in education will begin when we give back to parents what we took away – trusted, inspired, mentored experience.

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