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When it comes to parenting, the one debate that has been troubling parents since time immemorial is the one between authoritative parenting and friendly parenting. The methods of these two different kinds of parenting are diametrically opposite to each other. One focuses upon establishing absolute control over the children so that their growth can be monitored by parents in the desired direction whereas the other mode of parenting believes in giving the children freedom so that they can develop naturally. The believers of one school of thought discard the other and often parents are found torn between the two.

Young minds are easily impressionable. A child's sense of right and wrong is very blurry so it is important to some extent that the kids are scrupulously kept abased from the many destructive evils that are present in the society, which is what parenting is all about.

The Debate

Authoritative parenting ensures that a child treads on the right path under the constant influence of his or her parents. Children who experience authoritative parenting have less danger of becoming mentally damaged or falling into bad habits or company since their lives and the choices that they make are dictated by their parents through a series of rules and regulations, which are meant to be strictly obeyed, and at the failure of which the child usually has to face punishments. This kind of parenting might ensure the cultivation of good values in your child and a morally sound development but it greatly infringes upon the child's freedom owing to which he can never develop his own personality and his own ideas or sense of right and wrong.

Owing to the various flaws in authoritative parenting, many parents are now opting for friendly parenting in which parents play the role of accomplices as opposed to dictators. This mode of parenting allows the child to spread his wings of flight wide. These parents impart all their knowledge of right and wrong into their child but they never impose anything on them unless necessary. The child is allowed to have his opinions and he makes his choices depending upon what he has gathered from experience and observation. This mode of parenting enhances the all-round development of a child, broadens his horizons and protects his individuality. However, sometimes children misuse this freedom provided to them and start engaging in objectionable activities.

Plausible conclusion

A plausible conclusion to this debate between the two forms of parenting can be found upon reaching a middle ground between both. Parents must give their children freedom but never excessive of it. They must play the role of friends and not dictators in the lives of their children but at the same time mould them in such a way that the inherent discipline in the child is cultivated.

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