

# **Raising Responsible & Law Abiding Children**

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Presented by

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# Introduction

# State of the Family in Uganda

*Uganda National Bureau of Statistics 2014*

- 7.3 million households
- 30% households headed by women
- 42% of adult population is single, widowed, separated or divorced

*Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (2011)*

- 56% physical gender based violence

*The Police Annual Crime Report 2016*

- 28% defilement and rape

# State of the Family in Uganda

*Consequences of disintegration and fragmentation*

- 45% of youth involved in drug and alcohol abuse
- 44% orphaned children by either one or both parents
- 24% child marriage and teenage pregnancies
- 25% HIV infection among widowed, separated and divorced people

# Corruption Index

- In 1996, Uganda was 43<sup>rd</sup> most corrupt nation in the World
- In 2018, Uganda was the 26<sup>th</sup> most corrupt nation in the World

*[Source: Transparency International]*

# Alcohol Consumption



**Uganda Tops Africa in Alcohol Consumption:  
WHO May 2023 Report**

# 9,000 people die in road accidents every year – study

THURSDAY MAY 9 2019



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- **25 people die every day** on the road as a result of over speeding and drunk driving.
- 40% accidents are due to drunk driving

(Research by Makerere University School of Public Health – May 2019) +  
(Uganda Police Official)





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**PRIME**

## The supply of honest individuals in Uganda is currently low- Solberg

Sunday, February 04, 2024

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**Rino Solberg**

# Mental Illness in Uganda

- 30% Ugandans have mental illness according to the survey done by Makerere University and Butabika Hospital – report given in 2023

[<https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/30-percent-of-ugandans-have-mental-disorders-new-study-4420098>]

[Monitor Newspapers on November 1, 2023]

# State of Teenagers in Uganda

- **20% have had suicidal thoughts**
- **11% have attempted suicide**

Global Youth Culture Report, January 2023

# State of Fatherhood in Uganda

- **Fathers *Unaware of / Existence / Who Do Not Know their Kid(s) (Approx. 10% of Total Ugandan Fathers)***
  - **?***Circumstances* – Unwanted Pregnancy (High School / Not in Committed Relationship / Out of Adulterous Relationship)
  - **?**Kids Hidden by the Mothers – Out of Shame or Family Pressure
- **Fathers Aware Of / Existence of Kid(s) But Ignore Them / Not Involved (40% of Total Ugandan Fathers)**
  - **?***Deliberate* – Not Want to Face Responsibilities
  - **?***Cultural* – Men are Providers; Women are Nurturers
  - **?***Circumstances* – Unwanted Pregnancy (High School / Not in Committed Relationship / Out of Adulterous Relationship) /

# State of Fatherhood in Uganda

- **Fathers Have *Limited Involvement* in The Lives of Their Kid (s) – (45% of Total Ugandan Fathers)**
  - **🔗Ignorance** – Do Not Know How To Be Fathers (Based on Poor Relationship With Their Own Father Growing Up)
- **Fathers Have *Active Involvement* in The Lives of Their Kid (s) – (5% of Total Ugandan Fathers)**
  - **🔗Modern Fathers** – Want an Increased Role in Kid's Life
  - **🔗Changed Gender Roles** – Increase in Women Working Necessitating Father's Involvement in Child Rearing

*Source: Ideas Factory Ltd Own Data / Research*

# State of the Family in Uganda

*National Development Plan [NDPII, 2015/16-2019/20]*

- Main problem affecting the family institution is the high rate of disintegration and fragmentation of the family before and after marriage.

In what kind of world are  
you parenting children  
today?

# World You are Parenting In

- Different generation from our generation
- Dot Com generation
- Bombarded by all sorts of voices and messages
- Little guidance from busy parents (“Children belong to the state”)
- Lacking supportive social and cultural structure
- Hit by advance in technology and information technology



# World You are Parenting In

- Exposed to the global culture and effects of globalization
- Drug abuse is now at epidemic levels
- Sex saturated media and world
- Homosexuality & lesbianism is aggressively promoted and recruitment is ongoing
- Youth are totally exposed to all forms of sexual images and practices
- Loss of innocence

# Nature of the Global Conflict

- During the Cold War => it was an Arms Race
- Today => it is an Ideological/Cultural War
- “Empires of the future will not be empires of territory, but empires of the **MIND**” –

*Sir Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister during Second World War (30 November 1874 – 24 January 1965)*

- Hence all promoters of ideologies have made it a priority to reach and influence children and the young generation

# The Race For Our Children

- i. Homosexuals/lesbians
- ii. Pornographers
- iii. Drug traffickers & dealers
- iv. Rapists & defilers
- v. Sugar daddies & sugar mummies
- vi. Child sacrificers/witchdoctors

# The Race For Our Children

vii. Child traffickers [slavery & sex slavery]

viii. Satanists & Satan worshippers

ix. Radical Feminists

x. Mafia syndicates

xi. Media/Internet

xii. Businesses

xiii. Politicians

How Can You Raise a  
Responsible and Law  
Abiding Child in This  
Globalized World?

- **Caution!**

# Example



1964, President Lyndon Johnson of USA launched his GREAT SOCIETY domestic agenda intended to: -

- Beat Poverty
- Reduce Crime
- Increase Equality

The legislation incentivized single motherhood & violated a foundational principle

## **RESULT**

- Increased fatherlessness
- Increased broken families
- Increased CRIME
- Increased POVERTY
- Increased social unrest

# Lesson Learnt

- When making remedies, programs, bills, policies and legislation, the key factor is to be cognizant of their **RESULTS** rather than their intentions.
- Every remedy, program, law, bill, policy, program has an ideology and a **DESTINATION**
- Therefore it is vital to ensure that the remedies, programs, policies, laws etc., proposed, are in line with the **PRINCIPLES** that govern the aspects of life for which the remedies are sought.



# Remedy

- i. Correctly identify what a family and parenting are.

**FAMILY IS A DIVINE INSTITUTION &  
PARENTING IS A DIVINE CALLING**

- ii. Adopt the RIGHT principles (ideology) on FAMILY and PARENTING based on **TRUTH**
  - Malachi 2:15, *“Has not the Lord made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because He was seeking godly offspring”*

# Why Focus on the Family?

- i. Family is the “**CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION**” – the place where morals, values, ethics, character, responsibility, being law abiding, civil behavior etc., are inculcated
  - By 3years 50% values have been passed - experts
  
- ii. The quality of family & parenting is what determines future generations [As it is said that, “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world”]
  - *“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it”* – Proverbs 22:6
  
- iii. 15%/85% of success contributed by academic / character & interpersonal skills which are inculcated in the family (Harvard Business School)

# Why Focus on the Family?

- **“As the family goes, so goes the nation, and the world as we know it!”**

- Pope John Paul II

# GOAL of Child Parenting

To raise a God-fearing, autonomous, responsible, and productive citizen who will thrive in this world and will rise to their God-given potential and destiny and will make a contribution towards making the world a better place to live in.

# Raising Responsible & Law Abiding Children

## **i. Make a Conscious Decision to be a Responsible & Involved Parent**

- Know it is a fulltime undertaking
- Know it is a God-given responsibility for which God holds you accountable
- Will inconvenience you sometimes
- Count the cost [emotional/financial etc.]
- Be willing to pay the price
- Don't be so engrossed in preparing for the future at the expense of being there in the present to develop the necessary relationship with your child and "catch" the teachable moments in the present

# Raising Responsible & Law Abiding Children

## **ii. Choose to be NUMBER 1, in the race for your child and be your child's ADULT ALLY**

- No child can successfully make it through the turbulent years of growing up without an adult ally – experts

## **iii. Discover Yourself**

- Who you are as a person affects your parenting more than the parenting skills you acquire
- In parenting you are ALWAYS consciously or unconsciously “passing on who you are” to the child
- Know yourself and accept yourself
- Deal with your own “baggage from the past”

# Raising Responsible & Law Abiding Children

## iv. **Check the Quality of Your Marriage**

- Your relationship with your spouse sets the tone/quality of your parenting
- Love your children's mother and respect their father
- Your marriage relationship is the first sex education that your children have
- Your marriage will cause your children to love or hate marriage
- When the relationship with your spouse is not good, it affects the children negatively and erodes their self-confidence

# Raising Responsible & Law Abiding Children

v. Observe the three non-negotiable priority hierarchy in life

**1. GOD**

**2. SPOUSE**

**3. CHILDREN**



# Keys to Positive Parenting

## **vi. Be an Example to Your Children**

- 80% children learn by observation
- Children do what you say but teenagers do what you do
- Take responsibility for your bad examples

## **vii. Be A Good Communicator with Your Children**

- Talk with, not at or down to your child [be able to hold a conversation with your child]
- Be approachable, and make it easy for your child to talk
- Listen, listen, listen to your child
- Create time with each of your children alone

## **viii. Restore Responsible and Involved Fatherhood**

# Why Fathers are Needed

- Girls do better academically if their fathers show them warmth and control
- Girls whose fathers are close to them exhibit less anxiety and withdrawal disorders
- Parental connectedness is the number one factor in preventing girls from engaging in premarital sex and indulging in drugs and alcohol
- Daughters who believe that their fathers care for them have fewer suicide attempts and fewer instances of body dissatisfaction, depression, low self-esteem, substance abuse and unhealthy weight
- Girls with involved fathers are twice as likely to stay in school

*Source: "Bringing Up Girls" by Dr. James Dobson*

# Why Fathers are Needed

- Girls with fathers or father figures feel more protected, are more likely to attempt college, and are less likely to drop out of college.
- Girls whose parents divorce or separate before they turn twenty one tend to have shorter lifespans by four years
- Girls whose fathers are good are less likely to flaunt themselves to get male attention
- Girls who live with both their parents have significantly fewer growth and developmental delays, learning disorders, emotional disabilities and behavioral problems.
- Girls who live with their mothers only have significantly less ability to control impulses and delay gratification and have a weaker sense of conscience about right and wrong
- Both boys and girls do better academically if their fathers establish rules and exhibit affection

*Source: "Bringing Up Girls" by Dr. James Dobson*

# Why Fathers are Needed

## For Boys

- Performance, achievement, work, money, position, sporting prowess, and fame to cover for the missing father's affirmation
- They also look for a father's love in homosexual relationships, turning to other men for the embrace they never had as a boy
- Sometimes they turn to violence and gangs
- They also become involved in men-only institutions covert or public.
- Some men tend to use the domination, control and abuse of women as a way of proving their manhood in a subconscious effort to gain affirmation which they did not get from their father or a father figure

*Source: "Bringing Up Girls" by Dr. James Dobson*

# Principles of Fatherhood

- **Have never changed and will NEVER change even with modernity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

# Conclusion

Even if parenting is a difficult and challenging undertaking in today's world, if a parent applies the positive values and principles of parenting based on TRUTH, they will not only enjoy bringing up their children, BUT will help them to turn out to be responsible and law abiding citizens who will contribute towards making our world a better place to live in.