

### Importance of raising a child with both parents

Raising a child with both parents is a hard task, you have to sacrifice so many things to make sure he/she is raised correctly. But for only one parent to raise a child is extremely difficult. It always affects the child in a negative way, Whether it's in the beginning, middle or end of that child's life. It also takes a toll on the parent financially mentally and spiritually. So because of this it is mandatory for a child to be raised by both parents.

Emotional support is something that a child needs from both parents. That child needs to know that there are two people-“Mommy and Daddy” who genuinely loves them. When these are non-existent problems like low self esteem, behavioral issues arise. *A study published in the journal of social and personal relationships discovered that kids who perceived their parents as less supportive were more likely to report lower levels of self esteem (Cutrona, Cole, Colangelo, Assouline, & Russell, 1994).* when a whole parent is missing in the child's life they are automatically receiving less emotional support than normal.

When a child is being raised by both parents the probability of that child going to jail is lower than children who are being raised by a single parent. Having

both parents in the household provides support and stability which can help prevent the child from delving into risky or criminal behavior. Children raised by both parents are more likely to receive effective discipline and guidance from both parties. *In the Journal of Marriage and Family it was found that children who grew up in two-parent households were less likely to engage in delinquent behavior than those who grew up in single-parent households. The study also found that parental monitoring and family structure were key factors in reducing the likelihood of delinquent behavior. (Source: "Family Structure and Delinquency: Do Parents Matter?" by Ronald L. Simons, Leslie Gordon Simons, and L. Edward Wells, Jr.). A study published in the journal Criminology, found that children who grew up in single-parent households were more likely to be arrested as juveniles than those who grew up in two-parent households. The study also found that the presence of a father in the home was particularly important in reducing the likelihood of juvenile delinquency. (Source: "The Effects of Family Structure on Juvenile Delinquency" by Elizabeth J. Musick and David J. Seltzer).* The presence of both parents are needed.

When both parents are involved in the child's life things will be better financially. Instead of the burden being placed on one parent, the burden is shared between both. Raising a child can be very expensive. You have to worry about the expenses like food, clothes, school necessities and more. This can definitely put a lot of pressure on one parent. I'm not saying that it is impossible to do, but it can be

alot on one person. Having two sources of income can provide opportunities for activities like sports, music lessons, or traveling. {The European business review} states *“A family’s financial stability can have many benefits. For one, it can provide peace of mind and reduce stress levels. When bills are paid on time and there is money left over for savings and investment, families can feel secure in their future. Financial stability can also lead to better physical health, as chronic stress has been linked to a variety of health problems. In addition, financially stable families often have more opportunities to spend time together and pursue shared interests.”* So with both parents in the child's life being financial stability gives children an opportunity to experience more of a healthy childhood. One parent raising a child decreases the probability of that child having a healthy upbringing. Sources from {Marripedia} states *“Analysis of the 1997 and 1999 waves of the National Survey of America’s Families showed that the rate of poverty was 30.9-43.1 percent higher among single-parent families than among married, two-parent families “.* A child living in poverty isn't healthy in any shape, form or fashion.

Now there are times when a single parent succeeds in raising a child by themselves. Usually that person is very strong willed, receiving help from close friends and family members or is already financially stable. But who wants to make the habitual decision to raise a child all by themselves. Unfortunately there are single parents families that didn't choose to be what they are. They are forced into

adapting to a lifestyle that is not comfortable . Some families could've had two parents but a tragic accident could have occurred, or either the mother or father of a child could have chosen to just not raise the child. There are so many possibilities that can occur for a child to be raised by a single parent. Some single parents end up raising their children successfully, but the majority does not. A article on "*The annie E Casey Foundation*" stated that *"...single-parent household can disrupt a child's routines, education, housing arrangement and family income. It can also intensify the incidence of parental conflict and stress. These changes can be very difficult – and even traumatic – for some children."*

So ultimately raising a child with both parents is definitely needed. The child's life will be greatly affected. The parents will be benefiting also, mentally, financially, and physically. Children did not ask to be here so it is the mothers and the fathers obligation to take care of the child the right way. The child deserves it.

## Work cited page

*Cutrona, Cole, Colangelo, Assouline, & Russell, 1994. A study published in the journal of social and personal relationships .*

*Family Structure and Delinquency: Do Parents Matter?" by Ronald L. Simons, Leslie Gordon Simons, and L. Edward Wells, Jr*

*The Effects of Family Structure on Juvenile Delinquency" by Elizabeth J. Musick and David J. Seltzer*

*Marrimedia Adam Thomas and Isabell Sawhill, "For Love and Money? The Impact of Family Structure on Family Income," The Future of Children 15, no. 2 (2005): 68.*