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## **Child Urgency**

Everyone has had bad experiences, and everyone has had troubles. However, what is often neglected in reflecting on these experiences is the process of how one found themselves in the rabbit hole. Simply speaking, this process often starts with our home lives, and how we were raised. It also has to do with what freedoms we had, how much peace was available in our lives, and how we were treated for our actions. All of this can possibly be linked to parenting and positive home lives. Consequently, the lack of strong and stable households in the U.S. has and will be detrimental to the youth of America.

Parents are integral to a child's development even if some do not realize it. Without good parents or adults to positively influence children, those children will most often experience the world without the knowledge and wisdom from any positive adult figure. It is true that some parents can do this task by themselves; however, two parents sharing the load usually helps to create the best experience for a child. For this reason, many households are struggling in America: a lack of two parents. About 70% of children under the age of 18 live in two parent households. This includes the divorced parents who are sharing child custody, and about 38% of marriages end up in a divorce. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) This means that 30% of children are growing up in households that potentially give a greater disadvantage to that child. 30% of a generation is going to have a poor childhood experience which could set the foundation for a poor adulthood experience. This is why we need kids to grow up in a positively influenced environment. A strong and stable household could decrease the likelihood of a generation from having a detrimental life.

Now, focusing on who a child grows up with is one thing, but focusing on what a child grows up with is another. As most people know, we are all influenced by a multitude of personalities, experiences, and lessons throughout our lives. Nowadays, with the emergence of technology and the internet, parents have lost a significant influence over their children. Because "over 90 percent of teenagers use social media," (Coppes) parents have lost influence on their children's lives. While it has its issues, the internet is not all evil. Technology is a very powerful tool in today's society and can be used for a multitude of tasks. However, parents influence how much freedom that children have access to this technology. Letting a child experience so many freedoms is like baby turtles when they hatch on a beach. These baby turtles hatch and immediately encounter every danger imaginable to their species. Many do not make it to the sea. If a child is allowed to experience everything with the world all at once, then they are in danger.

What a child is exposed to greatly affects their lives, so parents monitoring what children are exposed to and how much is very important. It starts with having a stable household where parents can wisely allocate their children's freedoms.

Yes, it is true that some parents cannot provide for their children or family. Both parents had jobs in “59.8% of married-couple households.” (Catalyst Workplaces that Work for Women) While, yes, some families can have both parents each have a job and be fine, when both parents are working, sometimes it can stretch the parents’ time and energy and lead to at least a degree of neglect of children and family. Jobs that are considerate of working parents, especially ones with infants, help encourage early childhood development. When young children are not left at home alone or placed in a proper day care, cognitive and emotional deficits begin from the start of a child’s development. Even more devastating than neglect is absence. Parentless kids are neglected by today’s justice system. They should not be punished for the poor choices of their parents. Today’s world is not perfect; however, there are little changes that could be done starting with the future of society: children.

#### Works Cited

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