



Member of Qatar Foundation عضو في مؤسسة قطر

Parenting Programs in the Arab Region

DIFI Report Findings

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About the report

- **Objective of the report**
 - ❖ An overview of parental programs around the world, with a specific focus on the Arab region
 - ❖ Identifying the reality, types, objectives, patterns, components and impact with the goal of understanding the challenges and gaps in parenting programs
- **Qualitative and quantitative methodologies:**
 - ❖ A review of literature, database studies and reports, globally and regionally
 - ❖ A field survey of parenting programs in the Arab region through a questionnaire
 - ❖ A survey of the characteristics of parenting programs through the experiences of focus group participants
 - ❖ Analysis of the state of parenting programs using focus group discussions in select Arab countries, namely: Morocco, Jordan and Oman



Parenting matters!

Convention on the Rights of the Child

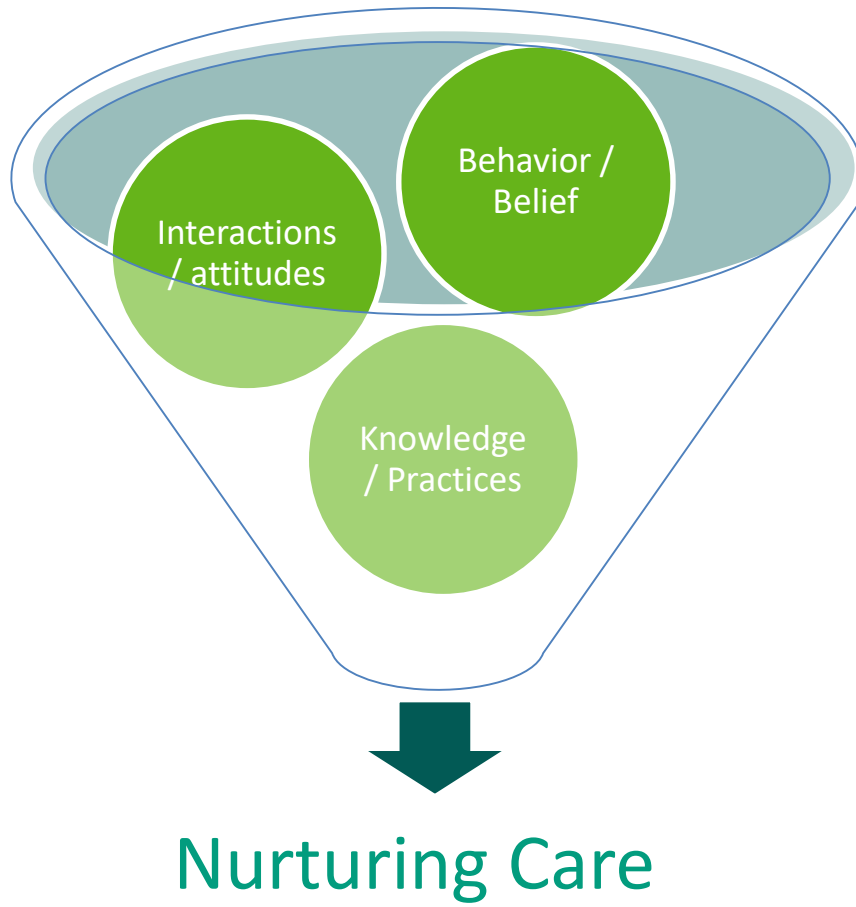
Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989

entry into force 2 September 1990, in accordance with article 49

Convinced that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community,

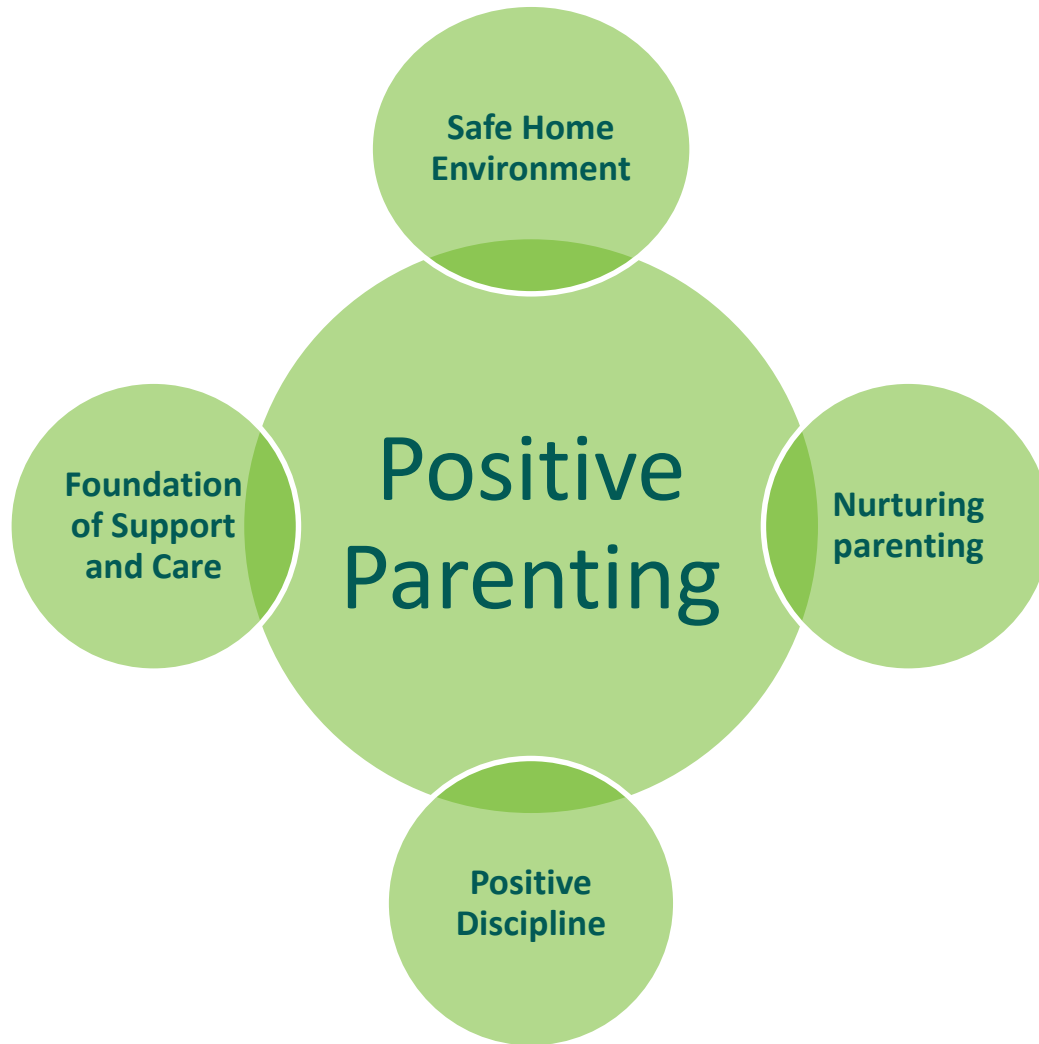
Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

What is parenting?



Nurturing Care

Positive Parenting



Defining Parenting Programs

- ❖ Interventions or services designed to support parental care interactions, behaviors, knowledge, beliefs, attitudes and practices.
- ❖ Promote positive or nurturing parenting.
- ❖ Introduce parenting methods with regards to early development, functions, provision of care.
- ❖ Could cover health, nutrition, stimulation and protection.

- ❖ **108 parenting programs across the Arab region**
- ❖ **32 programs in the Arabian Gulf**
- ❖ **38 programs in the Arab Mashreq**
- ❖ **26 programs in the Arab Maghreb**
- ❖ **12 programs in less developed countries**



Parental Education

- 34 programs
- Knowledge transfer, awareness of characteristics of childhood, parental care in the social, religious and medical contexts etc...

Parental Support

- 29 programs
- Psychological support, family relations, care, and services, family stability, relations, social care, support for families with special needs

Parental Training

- 27 programs
- Parental integration, care mechanisms and methods, upbringing, involvement of children, reproductive health

Parental Interventions

- 18 programs
- Psychological and educational counseling, counseling of mothers in anger management, anti-social behaviours in children, family conflict resolution

Findings – Program Survey

Region	Description	Objectives	Target Groups	Gaps	Challenges
Arab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Family counseling - Protection from domestic violence - Problematic behavior management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing family care worker skills - Improving family awareness - Provision of parental care knowledge and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families - Fathers - Mothers - Parents - Family care workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of youth and adolescent related issues - Low attendance - Lack of father participation - Lack of standards - Weak or vague theoretical framework - Poor evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conflict between program times and working hours - Lack of a prevention program - Long-term funding - Weak reach for children with disabilities - Poor documentation - Poor impact evaluation

Focus group findings - Jordan

Participant	Age	Gender	Status	Presence of children	Family size	Work?	Education	Income in US Dollars
1	27	female	wife	No	2	Yes	Postgraduate	600
2	28	female	wife	Yes	4	No	BA	420
3	29	female	wife	Yes	4	No	Postgraduate	565
4	50	female	wife	Yes	8	No	Diploma	420
5	55	female	Single	No	4	Yes	BA	705
6	37	female	wife	Yes	5	No	BA	565
7	24	female	Single	No	7	No	BA	1120
8	46	female	wife	Yes	8	Yes	BA	1120
9	25	female	wife	Yes	3	Yes	BA	565
10	29	female	wife	Yes	3	Yes	BA	565
11	40	female	wife	Yes	7	No	BA	490



Focus Group Findings – Morocco

Participant	Age	Gender	Status	Presence of children	Family size	In work?	Education	Income in US dollars
1	49	female	married	Yes	3	Yes	BA	550
2	46	female	married	Yes	4	Yes	Postgraduate	600
3	36	female	married	Yes	3	Yes	Postgraduate	700
4	24	female	married	No	2	Yes	BA	500
5	50	female	married	Yes	6	No	High school	
6	35	female	married	Yes	4	Yes	BA	400
7	48	female	married	Yes	6	No	BA	400
8	38	female	married	Yes	5	No	High school	
8	45	female	married	Yes	5	No	High school	
10	40	female	married	Yes	3	Yes	High school	250
11	40	female	married	Yes	7	Yes	diploma	300

Expectations and Delivery

Dialogue and discussion

Persuasion and accommodation

Positive emotions

Democratic parenting

Focus Group Findings – Oman

Participant	Age	Gender	Status	Presence of children	Family size	Work?
1	22	female	Single	No	zero	No
2	22	female	Single	No	zero	No
3	23	female	Single	No	zero	No
4	22	female	Single	No	zero	No
5	23	female	Marriage without consummation	No	zero	No
6	21	female	Single	No	zero	No
7	23	female	Marriage without consummation	No	zero	No
8	23	female	Single	No	zero	No
9	23	female	Marriage without consummation	No	zero	No
10	27	female	Married	Yes	5	Yes
11	29	female	Married	Yes	7	Yes
12	32	female	Married	Yes	6	Yes

Recommendations

Duration of course increased

Realistic Cases

Focus on one topic

Awareness Raising

Recommendations

- **Families:**
 - ❖ Providing support for at-risk families,
 - ❖ Anger management training in dealing with children,
 - ❖ Raising parents' awareness on positive parenting
 - ❖ Conflict resolution among divorced ex-spouses, and
 - ❖ Training on behavior modification techniques.
- **Child:**
 - ❖ Supporting children's psychosocial needs
 - ❖ Empowering children with learning disabilities,
 - ❖ Focusing on child safety during parental conflicts, child rights, and child protection.



Recommendations

- **Society:**

- ❖ Forming networks and coordination between governmental, non-governmental and international organizations on parenting issues,
- ❖ Promoting community awareness of the roles of the mother, including children's and parents' issues in school curricula.
- ❖ Forming partnerships and interlinkages among community organizations, caring for juveniles, and outreach to remote areas.

- **Programs:**

- ❖ Adopting program criteria, program evaluation and risk assessment, including parenting issues in policies,
- ❖ Training personnel in parenting programs,
- ❖ Securing funding,
- ❖ Issuing manuals for programs on evaluation, and
- ❖ Expanding parenting programs.



Thank you

