

Success is often measured by what we achieve in life. A good job, a thriving business, a beautiful home and the ability to provide for our families are all admirable accomplishments.

In Uganda today, many parents work tirelessly to ensure their children enjoy opportunities they never had. Yet, despite these sacrifices, it is not uncommon to find some successful parents struggling with children who are undisciplined, irresponsible, entitled, or unable to navigate life's challenges effectively. This reality raises an important question: Why do some successful parents raise struggling children?

Success here may be reflected in educational attainment, career advancement, financial stability, leadership positions, or entrepreneurial achievement, where a family lives a moderate life and has what is adequate to meet more than the basic needs.

SUCCESS VS EFFECTIVE PARENTING

Many parents assume that success in one area of life automatically leads to success in another.

However, excelling in business, academics, ministry, or professional work does not necessarily mean one will excel in parenting.

Parenting requires intentional investment, emotional availability, patience and consistent guidance.

A parent may be highly respected in the workplace, successful in their career, and admired in the community, yet have very little meaningful interaction with their children.

While professional or business success often rewards productivity and achievement, effective parenting thrives on presence, relationships and influence.

One of the greatest parenting

WHY SUCCESSFUL PARENTS SOMETIMES FAIL AT PARENTING

mistake is believing that providing material needs is enough. In many Ugandan families, parents work long hours to pay school fees, provide decent housing, and meet every financial obligation. These efforts are important and should be appreciated.

However, children need more than school fees and material comforts. They need conversations, guidance, encouragement, correction and emotional connection.

A child may attend the best school or university in the country/world yet feel disconnected from the people who matter most. Parents must remember that provision is an important part of parenting, but it is not the whole of parenting. Friendship and presence in your child's life matter most.

OUTSOURCING PARENTING

Modern life has made it easier than ever for parents to delegate responsibilities. Many children spend most of their time with housemaids, boarding schools, relatives, teachers, or digital devices. While these support systems can play a valuable role, they cannot replace the influence of a parent.

Character formation is too important to be outsourced. Values such as honesty, responsibility, respect, self-control, and self-resilience are best taught within the family through daily interactions and



PARENTING
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consistent modelling. Children learn far more from what parents do than from what parents say.

GIVING CHILDREN EVERYTHING

Many successful parents grew up with limited resources. Because of the hardships they experienced, they are determined to shield their children from similar struggles. While this desire comes from a place of love, it can sometimes produce unintended consequences.

Children who are given everything without earning it may fail to develop gratitude and responsibility. The ones protected from every difficulty may struggle to cope when life becomes challenging.

Resilience is not developed through comfort alone; it is developed through learning to overcome

ADVICE

Parents should ensure that success does not come at the expense of family relationships.

obstacles and solve problems. Parents should not seek to make future life difficult for their children, but neither should they remove every challenge from their path.

CHARACTER VERSUS COMFORT

One of the greatest gifts parents can give their children is strong character. Academic excellence, financial success and social opportunities are valuable, but character determines how these advantages are used.

History is filled with examples of individuals who inherited wealth and privilege, but squandered them because they lacked discipline and wisdom.

On the other hand, many people from modest backgrounds have achieved remarkable success because they developed strong values and a healthy work ethic.

Children are more likely to succeed in life when parents focus not only on what they provide, but also on who their children are becoming.

The solution is not for parents to abandon their careers or ambitions. Rather, it is to ensure that success

does not come at the expense of family relationships.

Parents can strengthen their influence by spending intentional time with their children, involving them in household responsibilities, teaching life skills, discussing values, and creating opportunities for meaningful conversations.

Children need parents who are interested not only in their grades and achievements but also in their thoughts, fears, dreams, and character development.

The most important question for every parent is not, "What am I leaving for my children?" but rather, "What am I leaving in my children?"

A LEGACY THAT LASTS

At the end of the day, successful parenting is not measured by the size of a family's bank account, the number of properties owned, or the prestige of a parent's profession.

It is measured by the values, character, and life skills that children carry into adulthood.

Success is a wonderful gift to leave to our children. But an even greater gift is our presence, guidance, wisdom, and example. Long after the money is spent and the possessions are gone, these are the treasures that continue to shape a child's future.

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