

THE DOING AND UNDOING OF A CHILD

*From the book of P. Ribes, s.j. "Foundry Workers or Gardeners"
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Theme

- ✓ *How Parents spoil their children.*
- ✓ *Do not pamper your kids.*
- ✓ *Do not give in to the market values less you lose your child!*

Use of these jottings

- ✓ *Personal reflection for Parents.*
- ✓ *Discussion groups.*
- ✓ *P.T.A. sessions..*

A POEM

Then, a man and a woman fell in love. And they got married.
And said: let us have a child as a sign of our great love.
And a beautiful and charming child was born to them.
They saw it. **And it was very good.**

Then the man and the woman said:
Let us give our child the best nourishment. .
Let us make our child strong and healthy. And they overfed the child.
And the child became obese and overweight.
They saw it. **And it was very good.**

Then, the child grew and the Parents said:
Let us buy for our child admission in the best school.
They got the child admitted in the most prestigious school in town.
And the child learned to be a smart and snobby brat.
They saw it. **And it was very god.**

Then, the parents said: Our child should not feel inferior to any other child.
And so, they bought for him the best and smartest ware
and loaded him with costly games and electronic gadgets.
And the child thought himself superior and despised others
They saw it. **And it was very good.**

Then, the Parents said: To bring up children is very costly.
Let us practice birth control. Let this child be our only child. And so it was.
The child grew without siblings to rough it out and share his things with others.
And the child grew selfish and self- conceited.
They saw it **And it was very good.**

And the Parents said: Our child has to compete with our neighbor's children and show himself superior to others.

Let us give him sport coaches, guitar classes, singing and dancing lessons, computer training and all the rest.

And the child felt tired and exhausted

They saw it. **And it was very good.**

Then, the Parents said: best and education elite demand lots of expenses.

Both of us have to secure well-paid jobs. And so it was.

Father and mother took jobs outside their home.

Maids, servants and tutors took care of the child.

And now deprived of parental love and company, the child felt like an orphan.

They saw it. **And it was very good.**

After schooling the parents bought admission for their child in the most expensive and trendy college. And now, selfish, proud, tensed up and deprived of parental supervision, in his newly found freedom, the child learned how to waste time, to cheat at examinations, how to loiter, to drink and waste money, how to go for numberless parties and socialize with dubious friends.

Now, The child was undone.

And they saw it. **but it wasn't good at all.**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING

1. How did the script of the "Doing and Undoing of a Child" affect you?
2. How true the script is to life? Explain.
3. Do modern and trendy Parents, as a whole, spoil and pamper their children? How?
4. What harm do indulgent Parents cause to their children?
5. Should we give to our children all the luxuries that other parents give them? Why?
6. How not to fall into the prevalent family consumerist and market values of today?
7. How to encourage the evangelical values of love, simplicity, friendliness, frugality in our homes?
8. Are you happy with the way you educate your children? What makes you say so?
9. Do you check the "diet and intakes" of your children?
 - In Food and drink
 - T.V. Watching, Videos, Inter Net, etc.
 - Readings,
 - Games and sports,
 - Social life,
 - Friends,
 - Studies,
10. Do you educate them on how to use these things and how to make their priorities?

APPENDIX:

A poem from the Christophers Notes **“HOW OUR CHILDREN LEARN”**

Note,

- This poem, practically, deals with the same themes of the Poem of **The doing and undoing of the child,**
- For convenience sake, I split the poem into two parts.
- The first part is about the doing of the child.,
- The second part is its opposite, the undoing of the child.
- Read these lines carefully and check what’s going on in your home.

THE DOING OF A CHILD

If a child lives with encouragement,
He learns confidence *(Reflect)*

If a child lives with praise,
He learns to appreciate. *(Reflect)*

If a child lives with fairness,
He learns justice. *(Reflect)*

If a child lives with security,
He learns to have faith. *(Reflect)*

If a child lives with approval,
He learns to like himself. *(Reflect)*

If a child lives with love and
Friendship,
He learns to find love
in the world. *(Reflect)*

THE UNDOING OF A CHILD.

If a child lives with criticism,
He learns to condemn *(Reflect)*

If a child lives with hostility,
He learns to fight. *(Reflect)*

If a child lives with ridicule,
He learns to be shy. *(Reflect)*

If a child lives with shame,
He learns to feel guilty. *(Reflect)*

If a child lives with intolerance
He learns to reject others. *(Reflect)*

