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Are Women better Parents than Men?

The first reaction to this question may be to say 'yes'. We all are aware of the many men, who make women pregnant and then disappear leaving the women to raise the child. This gives the impression that women are better parents as they shoulder the responsibility. That is not the whole picture. Many more men form responsible relationships, marry, have children and participate in their lives. When we consider the existing families globally, we must conclude there is no evidence that women are better parents. They are different from men, but women are not better parents. To get to the truth, we need to understand what a good parent is, and the different parenting roles of men and women. Children need both a good mother and father, but this can be confusing because of gender and societal norms.

The role of each parent is different and unique and much of this is gender based. A woman falls pregnant and experiences something new within her own body, as well as emotions, and unique events. She begins with her menstruation stopping, and morning sickness arriving. Her body begins to change as time passes. The baby grows inside her; she feels its life, kicks, and emotionally bonds. The father, on the other hand, is on the outside looking in. He cannot experience what she is, but that does not mean the fact he has become a father is meaningless to him. He will experience growing emotions and the reality that he is going to have a child. Mom will stop smoking and drinking because of the baby. Dad may not. Is this because he is a worse

parent? Not at all. The baby is in her body, so her drinking and smoking directly affects the baby. When the baby is born the mother goes through that, the man – cannot. Once the baby is born, it is the mother, not the father, who suckles the infant. This is simply about gender differences. He has no breasts producing milk. As the infant grows, it is often the mother, who stays at home and cares for the child. She spends time with the child, feeding it, ensuring its comfort and safety.

However, the father is going everyday to work and bringing home money. This provides safe stable accommodation for mother and child. He provides the food and whatever else the baby requires. This is the part of his role as a good parent. However, the issue of whether mothers are better parents is not discovered in the gender roles. It is seen in their core roles. Whether male or female, both parents need to contribute to the child's life well being and development.

Rosenberg and Bradford of the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect say that fathers are parenting when they have a positive relationship with the children's mother, spend time with her and the children, apply discipline and age appropriate guidance, and giving safety and necessary material provision (Rosenberg). Also, that both parents should provide an atmosphere of love, acceptance and understanding. The result of this will be children, who, when they reach adulthood are able to use the sound decision-making skills they will require to be successful in life.

Whilst gender dictates different roles for parents and engenders a role for women, which is very intimate such as carrying the child in her womb, breastfeeding, being full time with the

infant, it does not mean women are better parents. They simply have different roles. However, in the core common areas both men and women are usually good parents.

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Works Cited

Rosenberg, Jeffrey, and Bradford Wilcox. *The Importance of Fathers in the Healthy*

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