

Headline	Has enough been done to protect our children		
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Has enough been done to protect our children ?

OF late, issues concerning the dumping of newborn babies and the plight of missing children have captured the attention of the media and the community at large.

This most inhumane treatment of newborn babies is a tragic reflection of the state of social ills in our society involving erring youths and teenagers.

It is also symptomatic of problematic families where the family institutions have failed to inculcate noble values in the young generation.

The easy availability of pornographic materials as well as the influence of pornography through the Internet is also a factor that cannot be ignored and this has led to the emergence of many social ills.

In the wake of all these disturbing reports of baby-dumping, child abuse and child neglect, the question that comes to mind is whether the government and society as a whole have done enough to address the issue and to give adequate protection to children as a whole.

In 2001, Malaysia launched the "Say Yes for Children" campaign to create awareness on the protection of children.

The campaign was part of the

global movement for children to ensure greater action for children and to hold governments responsible for it.

The "Say Yes for Children" campaign was aimed at creating a conducive and enabling environment for children to grow up. It was built on 10 imperative actions and responsibilities, which are:

- LEAVE** no child out;
- PUT** children first;
- CARE** for every child;
- FIGHT** HIV/AIDS;
- STOP** harming and exploiting children;
- LISTEN** to children;
- EDUCATE** every child;
- PROTECT** children from war;
- PROTECT** the earth for children, and,
- FIGHT** poverty and invest in children.

The campaign called for urgent steps by all strata of society, including governments, the private sector and the community to ensure the well-being and security of future generations by safeguarding the environment at the global, national and local levels.

It is not incorrect to say that the world belongs to our children and adults of this generation are its caretakers.

As such, it is imperative that we must undertake whatever means at

our disposal to build a better world for our children. To achieve this, it has to begin from the home. Children are too young to protect themselves and they have to look up to their elders to take care of them. Here lies the vital role of the parents.

Besides fending for their children in terms of ensuring they are appropriately brought up, parents must instil positive values in their children from young to ensure they become responsible citizens.

Parents should acquire parenting skills to better equip themselves to bring up their children. They should make every possible effort to spend quality time with their children. Instead of abusing their children, the parents should show love and care for their offspring.

To love children is to respect them. The children in turn will grow up and respect their parents in appreciation for what has been done for them.

As children are the future of the nation, it is necessary for adults to give them a chance to voice their feelings and their thoughts should also be taken into account in family and national development.

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