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Tender loving care will work wonders

OF late, issues concerning the dumping of newborn babies and 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 very 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 good values among the young.

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 taken effective action to address the issue and to give adequate protection to children.

Have we done enough since 2001 for the protection of children when the Government launched the "Say Yes for Children" campaign, which 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 and was built on 10 imperative actions and responsibilities, which were:

- > 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.

To achieve this, it has to begin from the home. Children are too young to protect themselves and they have to look to their elders to take care of them. Here lies the very vital role of the parents.

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

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

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

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