



**European Expert Group Meeting
“Confronting family poverty and social exclusion;
ensuring work-family balance;
advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity
in Europe”**

Convened as part of preparations for the
Twentieth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, 2014
(Cfr. Report of the Secretary-General ,
Preparations for and observance of the twentieth anniversary of the
International Year of the Family in 2014,
A/67/61-E/2012/3)

6-8 June 2011



The Case Method as a tool to help Parenting and family communication and stability

Brussels June 7 2012



Contents

- **Abstract**
- Case Method: Description & Usage as a Pedagogical tool.
- A few notes on Parenting.
- Learnings of Case Method applied to Parents
- Recommendations to Governments



Abstract

- **Parenting**, a recognized cornerstone of children education worldwide.
 - Encourages a shared vision on families.
 - Promotes communication in couples.
 - Reduces divorce rates.
 - Leads to savings in government spending as reduces number of children from broken families.
- Therefore....
- ...tools to help Parenting (*such as the case Method*) are convenient to promote peaceful communities.



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Case Method

- Christopher Columbus Langdell 1870's Harvard University Law School.
 - Tool for discussing Jurisprudence.
 - Students discuss real cases and become involved in different scenarios.
 - Successful results.
 - Adopted by Business School in 1908.



Langdell wrote *Selection of Cases on the Law of Contracts* (1870, the first book used in the “case” system; enlarged, 1877); *Cases on Sales* (1872); *Summary of Equity Pleading* (1877, 2nd ed., 1883); *Cases in Equity Pleading* (1883); and *Brief Survey of Equity Jurisdiction* (1905).



Case Method

- Harvard's implementation of Case Methodology extends to other Business Schools.
- Accreditation from AACSB.
- Adoption of case method in most Western Business Schools. Just to list a few:
 - Yale.
 - Stanford.
 - IESE (Spain)
 - Ross School of Business
 - INSEAD (France)
 - University of Virginia
 - IMEDE (Switzerland)





Case Method

- Methodology also suited in non western environments.
 - Asian Institute of Management (Philippines)
 - Indian Institute of Management (India)
 - University of Ahmedabad (India)
 - Asian Case research Centre (Hong Kong)
 - Iranian Business School (Iran)



AIM



AHMEDABAD UNIVERSITY



Case Method

- “A case is a narrative account of a situation, problem, or decision usually derived from actual experience”.
- Using Case Method:
 - In-class learning substantially exceeds pre-class learning and further stimulates **learning after class**.
 - Learning extends **beyond the individual class**, yielding deeper insights through linkages across classes, modules, and courses.
 - **Students are engaged** in, energized by, and challenged by class discussions.
 - Students discover, articulate and develop most **critical insights**, with the instructor leading the process.”



Case Method beyond Business & Law



Case Methodology used in Engineering.
University of Virginia.

- Cases promote active learning, **team-based activities**, and the ability to deal with open-ended problems. With cases, students can be exposed to realistic situations - those **involving** open ended problems, multiple possible answers, key decision points, and tradeoffs. Thus, cases are a natural way to introduce engineering design and decision-making.



Case Method beyond University Students



Case Methodology used with **Board Members**.
Darden School of Business in Charlottesville.
(Va.)

- *“While MBA cases are designed to teach students a particular business skill or principle, cases written for trustees are designed to draw out the board’s best ideas.”*
- *“One of the reasons cases work is because our trustees fall right back into the pedagogical process they experienced while **learning with cases**”*
- *“Utilizing cases makes for a more open and frank discussion It can be an excellent **team-building** exercise that leads to understanding, cooperation, and a unified agenda.”*



Ken White, vice president of communication and marketing Darden School of Business in Charlottesville. University of Virginia



Conclusions

- Case method is a proven methodology to solve problems in various fields.
- Case method promotes communication and team building
- Case method is a valuable tool to solve complicated issues that require common sense.



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Parenting

- Parenting, the most traditional way that families have used over the years to bring up their children, **is still today regarded across all societies as the best method**, on top of any Government supported program, of doing so.
- **World Values Survey conducted in the period 1998 through 2008** suggests that even in heaviest government supported societies, Parenting remains as a key organization to educate children.

Source: World Values Survey 1998 - 2008

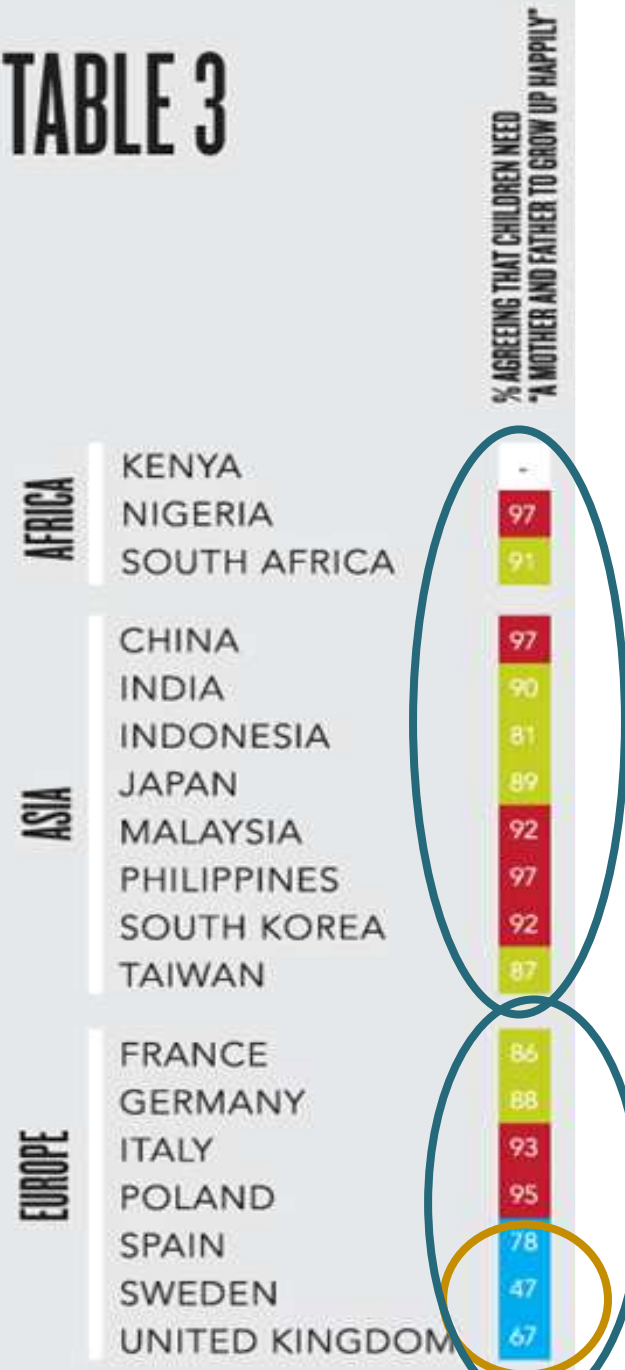


Parenting

- In Western European countries 4 out of 5 of those interviewed consider parenting as the best option for children education. Sweden and UK score below.
- Asian and African nations scores are nearly 90%.



TABLE 3



Parenting

- 2 out of three in North American and Australian region interviewed consider parenting as the best option for children education.
- Middle East and Latin American scores are nearly 90%.

TABLE 3

AGREEING THAT CHILDREN NEED A MOTHER AND FATHER TO GROW UP HAPPILY*

LATIN AMERICA	ARGENTINA	88
	CHILE	76
	COLOMBIA	86
	MEXICO	84
	PERU	93
MIDDLE EAST	EGYPT	99
	SAUDI ARABIA	95
NORTH AMERICA	CANADA	65
	UNITED STATES	63
OCEANIA	AUSTRALIA	70
	NEW ZEALAND	68



Source: World Values Survey, 1998-2008.



Parenting

- *When parenting is not exercised appropriately conflict grows.*
- *2011 UK Riots caused by a number of incidents are now considered to have absence of parenting as the major cause of their appearance.*
- *High cost to government: “Cameron announced that he would create a £10 million recovery fund and a £20 million scheme to help High Streets recover from the damages”.*





Parenting

- UK Riots report.
- *“We heard from many communities where people felt that rioter behaviour could ultimately be **ascribed to poor parenting**. In a wide survey of over 900 young people, 58 per cent supported this view.”*
- *“There is strong evidence that **good parenting** has a positive impact on outcomes in a child’s life. Through an analysis of the Millennium Cohort Study, Demos found that, while background factors such as income, parents’ educational qualifications and family structure were also associated with positive early outcomes, it was the **parenting approach that ultimately carried the most weight.**”*



After the riots. The final report of the Riots Communities and Victims Panel. Simon Marcus, Heather Rabbatts CBE, Darra Singh OBE (Panel Chair), Baroness Maeve Sherlock OBE



Parenting Risk

- One of the major risks to good Parenting is **miscommunication** between parents.
- Communication between males and females (men and women) is not always easy as detected by Professor John Gray's "Men are from Mars and Women are from Venus" the best selling book of past decade according to The New York Times.



Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus: A Practical Guide for Improving Communication and Getting What You Want in Your Relationships



Parenting & Divorce

- Actually as professors Doherty and Ward state bad communications may lead to divorce more frequently than anticipated.
- *“There is a popular assumption among professionals and the public that divorce happens only after a long process of misery and conflict finally drives the spouses to end the marriage....”*

Second Chances. A proposal to reduce unnecessary divorce. William J. Doherty, Professor of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota and Leah Ward Sears Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice (retired)





Parenting & Divorce

- “....This scenario turns out to be inaccurate for many couples confronting divorce. Sociologist Paul Amato of Pennsylvania State University and his colleagues found that most **couples who divorce actually look quite similar to most couples who do not divorce**. Most divorced couples report average happiness and low levels of conflict in their marriages in the years prior to the divorce.”
- ”Our results suggest that divorces with the greatest potential to harm children occur in **marriages that have the greatest potential for reconciliation.**”

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Divorce & Conflict

- *“Children with divorced or unmarried parents are more likely to be poor, while married couples on average build more wealth than those who are not married, even accounting for the observation that well-off people are more likely to get married. **Parental divorce or failure to marry appears to increase children’s risk of failure in school.”***

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Divorce & Conflict

....” Such children **are less likely to finish high school, complete college, or attain high-status jobs.** Infant mortality is higher among children whose parents do not get or stay married, and such children on average have poorer physical health compared to their peers with married parents. **Teens from divorced families are more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, get in trouble with the law, and experience a teen pregnancy..”**



Second Chances. A proposal to reduce unnecessary divorce. William J. Doherty, Professor of Family Social Science, University of Minnesota and Leah Ward Sears Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice (retired)



Conclusions

- Parenting
 - A recognized cornerstone in Children Education.
 - A weapon to pre-empt conflict & Government spending.
 - *Provided there is good communicationit can be...*
 - A tool to reduce divorce & therefore children coming from divorce.



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Case method applied to Parents

- IIOF in Spain (supported by IFFD worldwide) works with Parenting programs designed to promote communications amongst parents and professionalization in children education.
- *Parenting* is a very sensitive issue to parents and are ready to take time to learn and apply their learning.
- Nearly 40,000 couples in Spain (Est. 100,000 worldwide) attend courses where Case Methodology is applied.
- Acceptance of courses is high. 60% of parents take on a second program when the first is finished.





Case method applied to Parents

1. Adults have **fixed habits** and resist change if they have no clear reasons to accept it.
2. **Self-learning** is crucial at this stage. So participation fosters the learning process.
3. **Adults want to use** everything they've learnt immediately, so they look for the most practical aspects of what they've been taught.
4. In principle, **they are usually critical of learning what clashes** with their habitual behavior.



Case method applied to Parents

5. A person probably learns more when the session **focuses on a problem** (which is always subjective), instead of a subject (more objective).
6. An environment of physical comfort, **trust, friendliness and freedom** of expression in the training session facilitates the learning process.
7. In order to learn, adults must **recognize their own shortcomings** in what they are taught. If not, they learn nothing.
8. When they are interested or have a reason to learn, **they are very demanding** with whoever is teaching them.





Conclusions

- Cse method applied to Parenting
 - Generates parent commitment.
 - Promotes communication.
 - *Puts Parenting as a priority and a shared objective.*



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Recommendations to Governments

- 1.- Government should analyze costs incurred in reducing and / or controlling conflict derived from broken families as opposed to investment in helping build stronger families.
- 2.- Governments should promote Parenting and parental responsibility through appropriate tools to anticipate and reduce conflict derived from unstable families and children coming from divorced families.



Recommendations to Governments

- 3.- Governments should encourage public and private initiatives that use the Case Method in Family Orientation Programs to help in:
- a) Promoting higher and better communication skills between couples that will result in a reduction in conflict and divorce in families.
 - b) “Professionalization” of Parenting through supporting programs that make parents aware of their weaknesses and provide tools for improvement.



Recommendations to Governments

4.- “Pay now pay less” could become a guiding principle for Governments to build a better more human society with happier well educated individuals.