

Men's Rights to Parenthood

Male and female duties performed within the family structure have changed throughout the historical evolution of societies.

There is no doubt that in the beginning the mother is the most important person for the baby, and she's the one who gathers the largest sum of possibilities for the perfect emotional connection with the child, a fundamental element in structuring the affectivity of the human being. The father only takes a direct importance when the baby is a little older. However, their presence is recommended and beneficial for the formation of the personality of your child. It is interesting to note how babies seem to realize their parents' presence. The father has a great importance to the baby indirectly, mainly in the first weeks, in the adjustment phase, when the mother and the newborn need their support.



To the International Labor Organization, responsibilities should be divided between the couples, so that none of them are harmed in their place of work.

Paternity leave is intended to allow the father to be with the baby and the mother while the mother recovers from labor.

To better understand this issue, we interviewed Professor Jorge Martins, since he was the first teacher, in this school, to benefit from Paternity leave.

Do you consider yourself a present father- from the gestation to the this moment?

-Yes, I consider myself a present father (very present indeed).

Do you think there is a lot of difference in the roles of father and mother? What and why?

-No. There are things that people assigned to women and others that are assigned only for men. I think this does not exist, the role is the same.

Written by Flora Araújo and Sara Barbosa

What was the biggest difficulty you faced as a parent? And the greatest joy, the greatest pleasure?

-Every day is a new discovery, it is difficult to answer what the greatest difficulty is. My greatest joy is being a father. My greatest pleasure is that I have been a father twice.

Do you think that young people already carry out the tasks traditionally attributed to mothers?

"Older men did not do these kind of tasks, but nowadays we are already seeing more men doing them. There has been a positive development.

What is the greatest learning that parenting has brought you?

-I don't know. I think that only when I pass away I would be able to answer that question. There is an age difference of 10 years between my daughters. There are things I discovered in the first daughter and there are others that I only discovered in the second. In the first daughter there is always the fear of doing something wrong while in the second...it is calmer.

What legacy do you want to leave to your daughters?

-What I want to leave to my daughters... education and culture, because these are two things that allow us to be everything in life. If you set a good example, you will have someone who continues your example, if you leave bad examples you will have children with huge problems when they grow up.

For you, the best thing about being a father is...

"For me the best thing about being a father is getting older and thinking that I got it right and that I fulfil my duties.