

Value driven schools

ENGAGING PARENTS

Werner Cloete
23 October 2012

African traditional education

“...sociability, integrity, honesty, courage, solidarity, endurance, ethics and...the concept of honour were amongst the most important moral qualities demanded.”

“...respect for elders and people in authority...good eating habits, virginity before marriage and courage among boys...”

Moumouni, A. Education in Africa, 1968.

“They had no professionally trained teachers, mostly their parents...were their natural and most important teachers.”

- Dr PJ du Toit, *Revisiting the Foundations of Education in Africa* 2007

Enter the industrial revolution and formal education....

DAVID CAMERON 2011



And these riots were not about poverty: that insults the millions of people who, whatever the hardship, would never dream of making others suffer like this.

No, this was about behaviour...people showing indifference to right and wrong, people with a twisted moral code, people with a complete absence of self-restraint.

But politicians shying away from speaking the truth about behaviour, about morality - this has actually helped to cause the social problems we see around us.

We have been too unwilling for too long to talk about what is right and what is wrong.

We have too often avoided saying what needs to be said – about everything from marriage to welfare to common courtesy.

In this risk-free ground of moral neutrality there are no bad choices, just different lifestyles. People aren't the architects of their own problems, they are victims of circumstance.

'Live and let live' becomes 'do what you please.' Well actually, what last week has shown is that this moral neutrality, this relativism – it's not going to cut it any more.

So this must be a wake-up call for our country. Social problems that have been festering for decades have exploded in our face.

We must fight back against the attitudes and assumptions that have brought parts of our society to this shocking state.

We know what's gone wrong: the question is, do we have the determination to put it right?

Do we have the determination to confront the slow-motion moral collapse that has taken place in parts of our country these past few generations?

Irresponsibility. Selfishness. Behaving as if your choices have no consequences.

Children without fathers. Schools without discipline. Reward without effort.

Crime without punishment. Rights without responsibilities. Communities without control.

In my very first act as leader of this party I signalled my personal priority: to mend our broken society. That passion is stronger today than ever.

But I repeat today, as I have on many occasions these last few years, that the reason I am in politics is to build a bigger, stronger society.

Stronger families.

Stronger communities.

A stronger society.

Bill Clinton 1995:

“The single biggest social problem in our society may be the growing absence of fathers from their children's homes, because it contributes to so many other social problems.”



**Cassie Carstens,
Transformational leader**



“The fathers do not take up their rightful responsibility: that is the single biggest problem of the world.”

85% of children with behavioral problems come from fatherless homes.

90% of homeless children come from fatherless homes.

71% of children not finishing school come from fatherless homes.

63% of children attempting suicide come from fatherless homes

- www.fathersforlife.org

Recent organisations in SA

- The Fatherhood Foundation
(www.fatherhoodfoundationsa.org)
- The World Needs a Father
(www.theworldneedsafather.com)

Malachi 4:5-6

“He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

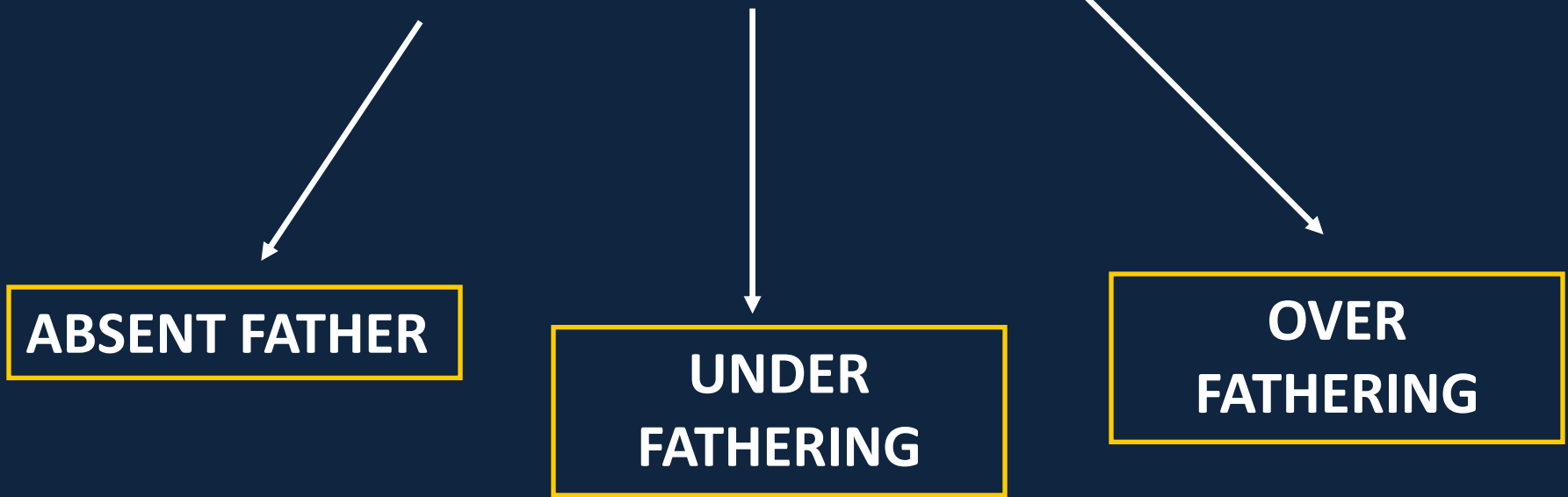
When will you do a job well?

- If you know that it is your job
- If you are trained to do the job
- When you are encouraged and supported in that job

Four roles of a father

- 1. A father establishes authority**
- 2. A father confers identity**
- 3. A father provides security**
- 4. A father affirms potential**

Three common types of fatherhood deficiency





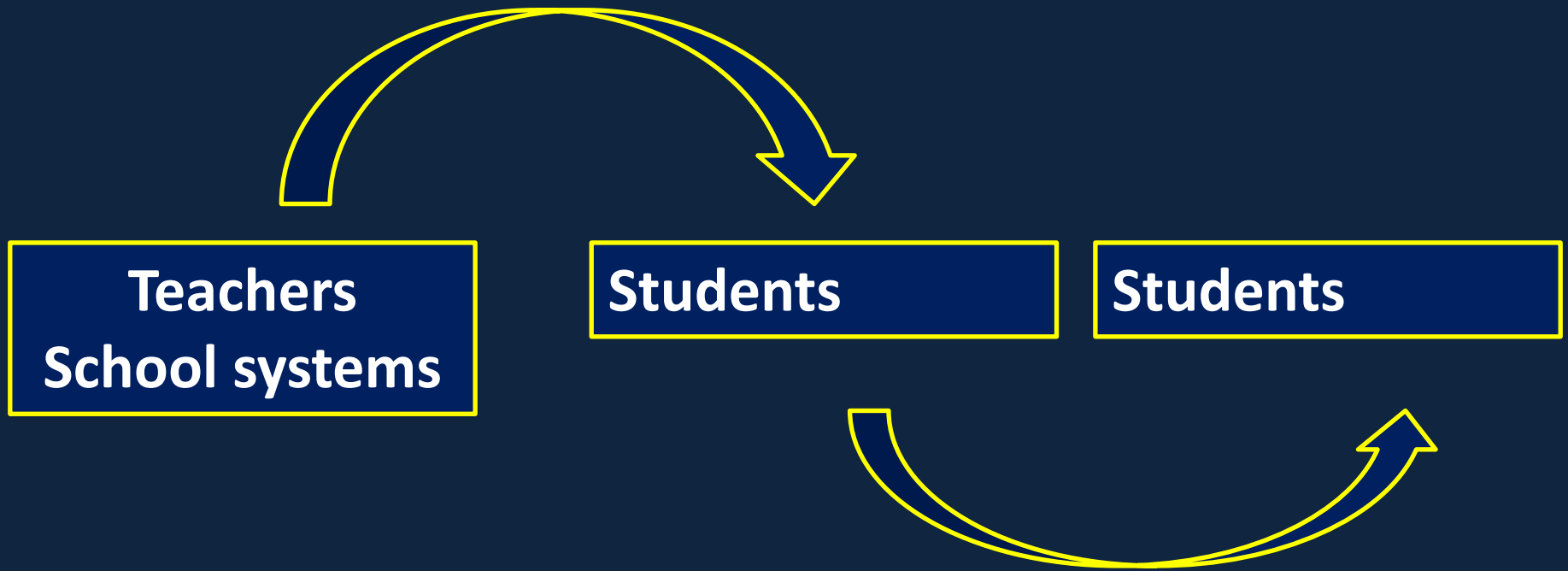
Character development



Teachers
School systems

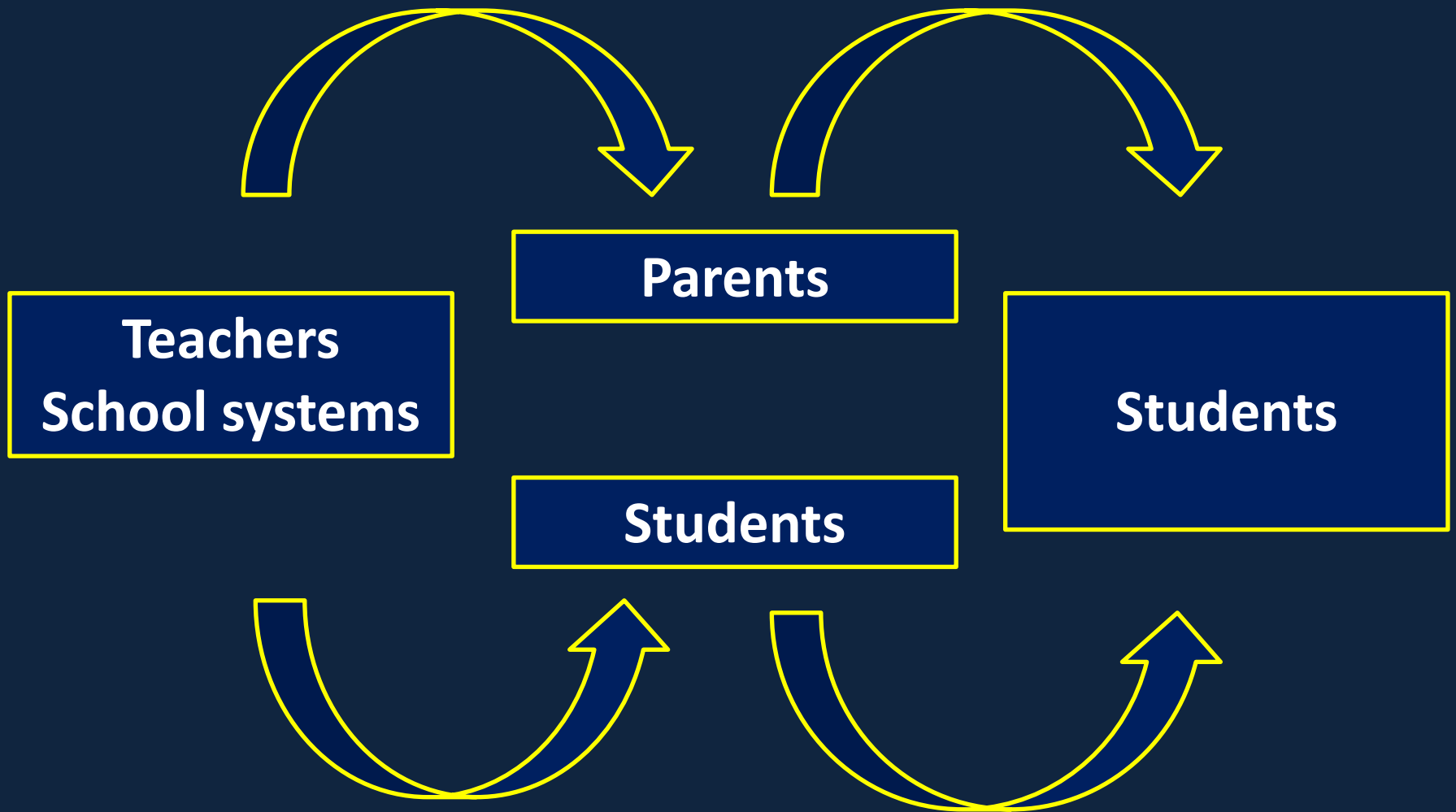
Students

Character development



Now it is a culture...not a programme.

Character development



For many fathers/parents the challenge is...

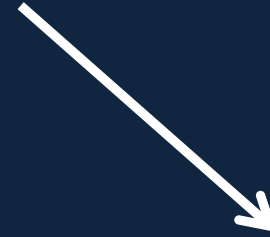
...not only to be present but to be trained

It's not only about physical presence, but also emotional presence, spiritual presence, proactive strategy.

Two keys things to realise



The centrality of
the challenge in
the community



The centrality of
the school in the
community

Character development initiatives at schools

The best thing that a school can do is to place the ball in the court of the people who are primarily responsible for it.

We live in a society of outsourcing

The family is a unit of reproduction

ENGAGE VISION



**Schools functioning
as hubs for the
restoration of
effective
parenthood,
particularly
fatherhood.**

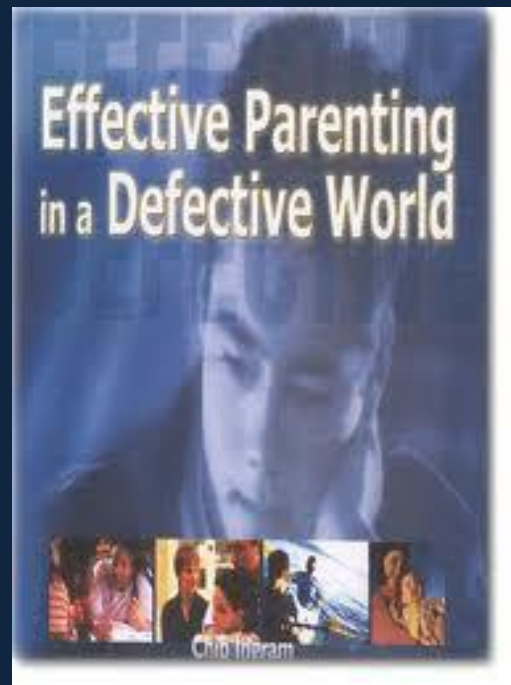
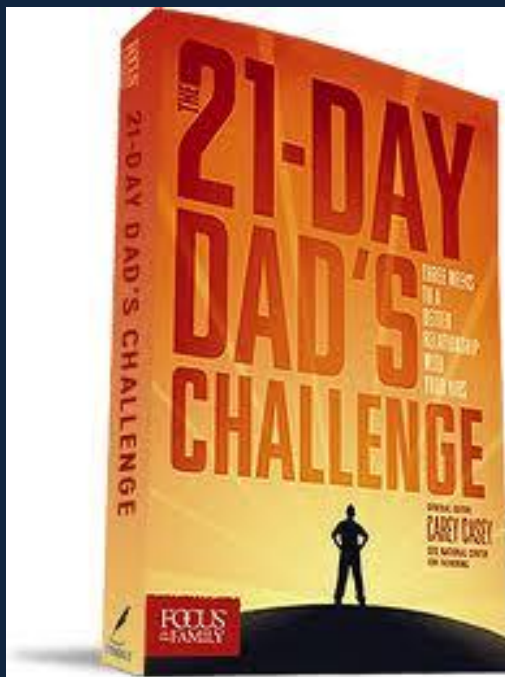
How?

**Committee of parents
and teachers**

**Engage
evenings**

**Distributing suitable
material**

One foot in the resource world, one foot in the school community



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Dad Challenges

**Encourage a team
concept**

Engage evening Paul Roos Gymnasium 2011



Edgemean High School



Rondebosch Boys' High School



Others...

- **Hoërskool Upington**
- **Laerskool Caledon**
- **Enquiries from many others...different parts of SA**
- **21 countries visited website, around 600 hundred visits from different cities in SA**

- This is the next step in school evolution...character formation through investment in family.
- Being on the cutting edge as school





Clearing up any misconceptions

1. Engage is not gender biased
2. We do not think that it is a cure-all
3. It will look different in different school communities

www.engageschools.org

(everything is free of charge)

How to save a country in three steps

- 1. Find a passionate teacher in every school who understands the importance of effective parenting, particularly the need for effective fathering.**
- 2. Surround that person with the right support team, support organisations and resources.**
- 3. Use the school's position to restore effective parenting, particularly fatherhood, in that community.**

If not now...when?



If not us...who?

