



Adopting an older child

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I would have spent a few years deciding upon adoption.

I received most inputs that influenced my understanding about adoption from adoptive parents and adoption agencies. Getting information on adoption can really be a challenge, as immediate circle of contacts may not have current information.

Laws around adoption play an important role in enabling larger sections of society. Also, the adoption agencies and people implementing the adoption procedures need to be friendly and approachable. I wish the legal process could be more enabling and less time consuming.

The adoption usually requires lot of counseling. People often view adoption as charity, which is not the case. Common belief is that the adoptive parent gives life to a child. Actually, the child brings life to us and refines us as an individual.

There still remain issues with larger sections of society and at times it creates an odd situation in introducing your child, who was adopted, due to their lack of preparedness to handle such a relation. Lot of awareness and sensitization needs to happen in this space. I believe that professional societies and advocacy groups can be most effective in sensitizing larger sections of the society about adoption. Equally important is the role of adoptive parents.

Even as one needs lot of courage and conviction, particularly while adopting an older child, it is not true that an older child will have greater bonding challenges. They bring a baggage full of goodness and discipline and I have found them to be bolder than any of the ordinary children brought up in the security of the home and parent.

Life just changed and I become more a refined human being with more empathy. Any child, if you give a chance of fairness, shines like stars!