



MAMA TENDO

INTRODUCE CHILDREN TO VARIED CHORES

During this holiday, let us remember to expose our children (both boys and girls) to varied responsibilities so they can develop essential skills.

In many traditional homes, chores were clearly divided by gender. Boys were discouraged from entering the kitchen, while girls were restricted from tasks considered "male". The world has changed, we must ask ourselves whether our homes have changed with it.

The range of necessary life skills has expanded beyond gender. In many homes, chores are still divided along old lines. These patterns are often defended as culture, but they set children up for difficulty in adult life.

Boys who grow up without basic household skills will eventually enter adulthood dependent on others. Many reach university or marriage unable to cook, wash clothes, or maintain a clean living space, creating a strain in relationships and fostering entitlement. Girls, meanwhile, are frequently overburdened with domestic work at the expense of rest, study and play. Responsibility is valuable, but excess teaches exhaustion, not empowerment.

Gendered chores also send damaging messages.

Teaching all children the same basic life skills prepares them for independence. A boy who learns to cook and clean is being equipped, not weakened. A girl who learns to fix simple things, or manage money is being prepared for real life.