

## Man sues parents for being born

10th February, 2019



Image via Raphael Samuel on YouTube

A man in India is unhappy that he was born. He did not want to be born. He is suing his parents because they did not ask him if he wanted to be born. The man lives in the city of Mumbai. His name is Raphael Samuel and he is 27 years

old. He is suing his parents for giving birth to him without his consent. Mr Samuel calls himself an anti-natalist. This is someone who believes in a philosophy called anti-natalism. This philosophy puts a negative value on birth. Anti-natalists believe that people should try not to have children. They believe that having children is morally wrong. They believe that the world is a better place with fewer children in it. China's one-child policy was a result of anti-natalism.

Raphael Samuel has posted a video on YouTube explaining why he wants to sue his parents. The video has gone viral. In the video, Mr Samuel answers questions from his followers and from reporters. He said: "I want everyone in India and the world to realise one thing - that they are born without their consent. I want them to understand that they do not owe their parents anything. If we are born without our consent, we should be maintained for our life. We should be paid by our parents to live." He added: "I love my parents...but they had me for their joy and their pleasure." Samuel's mother said she would accept fault if her son could explain how she could have asked for his consent to be born.

Sources: [indiatimes.com](http://indiatimes.com) / [asiaone.com](http://asiaone.com) / [vox.com](http://vox.com)

## Writing

People should have fewer children. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

unhappy / born / ask / city / giving birth / consent / philosophy / negative / children / video / YouTube / follower / understand / life / pleasure / joy / mother / explain / son

## True / False

- a) A man in India did not want to be born. T / F
- b) The man is 72 years old. T / F
- c) The man is an anti-naturalist. T / F
- d) Anti-natalists believe people should have lots of children. T / F
- e) A video the man posted has gone viral online. T / F
- f) The man answered questions from reporters in his YouTube video. T / F
- g) The man said we should help to pay for our parents to live. T / F
- h) The man's mother said she would accept fault for her son's birth. T / F

## Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <b>unhappy</b>    | a. bad                 |
| 2. <b>suing</b>      | b. blame               |
| 3. <b>consent</b>    | c. uploaded            |
| 4. <b>negative</b>   | d. permission          |
| 5. <b>believe</b>    | e. be in debt to       |
| 6. <b>posted</b>     | f. sad                 |
| 7. <b>reporters</b>  | g. looked after        |
| 8. <b>owe</b>        | h. think               |
| 9. <b>maintained</b> | i. taking legal action |
| 10. <b>fault</b>     | j. journalists         |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Would you like to watch Mr Samuel's YouTube video?
- c) How can parents ask for the consent of an unborn child?
- d) What do you owe your parents?
- e) Should your parents pay for your life?
- f) How much of a joy is being a parent?
- g) What is the best number of children to have?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Mr Samuel?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. A man in India is unhappy that he  | a. and their pleasure      |
| 2. giving birth to him without        | b. fewer children in it    |
| 3. This philosophy puts a negative    | c. gone viral              |
| 4. the world is a better place with   | d. maintained for our life |
| 5. China's one-                       | e. his consent             |
| 6. The video has                      | f. could explain how       |
| 7. they do not owe their              | g. was born                |
| 8. we should be                       | h. parents anything        |
| 9. they had me for their joy          | i. child policy            |
| 10. she would accept fault if her son | j. value on birth          |

## Discussion – Student B

- How happy are you that you were born?
- What do you think of anti-natalism?
- What do you think of the man for suing his parents?
- Will the man win his case in court?
- What do the man's parents think about him?
- Is the man being disrespectful to his parents?
- What advice do you have for Mr Samuel?
- What do you think of China's one-child policy?

## Spelling

- He is unisg his parents
- someone who believes in a ihyolpsohp
- a tvngaeie value on birth
- mllaory wrong
- China's one-child iloypc
- a ureslt of anti-natalism
- The video has gone irval
- questions from his fwrsoolle
- we should be atenndaiim for our life
- their joy and their saleperu
- she would accept ftlua
- asked for his ennotcs to be born

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. d	4. a	5. h
6. c	7. j	8. e	9. g	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – None

You think zero is the best number of children to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their number. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): one, two or ten.

### Role B – One

You think one is the best number of children to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their number. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): zero, two or ten.

### Role C – Two

You think two is the best number of children to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their number. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): one, zero or ten.

### Role D – Ten

You think ten is the best number of children to have. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their number. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): one, two or zero.

## Speaking – Children

Rank these with your partner. Put the best number of children to have at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| • two girls        | • none     |
| • a girl and a boy | • one boy  |
| • 1 boys / 2 girls | • one girl |
| • 8 children       | • two boys |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.