

## **ATMAJA: The Association of Adoptive Parents**

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### **Parenthood by Adoption**

Dear Friends:

The desire to be parents is very common. It is certainly a wonderful experience. When you have reached up to this website, you know about the deep desire inside yourself to have a child. To give birth is only one short-term aspect of parenthood, but that is not all about it. A more important and ever-lasting aspect of parenthood is the experience of bringing up the child; the joy of parenthood lies in the loving and long-standing relationship that grows between the parents and the child in the process of bringing her up. Even though one fails in giving birth, no one can prevent the willing couples to enjoy this experience. There is no less joy in this alternative way to parenthood, that is adoption.

We understand the difficult time that you have been going through, both mentally and physically. At the same time, we like to congratulate you for arriving at the decision to adopt and possibly starting the process of the short-term aspect of parenthood, which may be equated with the pregnancy period in the process of giving birth. We also have been through this and understand the anxiety and pain of waiting. We also understand to a great extent the joy of parenthood, which we like to share with you in this article. Of course, there are moments of anxiety which are natural parts of life for any parent. There are some special kinds of anxious moments related to the issue of adoption and we will share that also, including the different means to deal with these issues which we have learnt through various discussions among ourselves, with the social workers and counselors.

Do not forget to register the moment when you first look at the child in very near future and take her home, equated with the small and most important part of giving birth, that is the child birth. Your life as parents, with joy and happiness, and challenge and anxiety at the same time, starts from that moment like any other parents. You two become a parent. There is no looking back after that. For you two, the parenthood will have been achieved at that time. Now it is up to you to enjoy the parenthood.

Note the similarity. The sequence of events, laced with indecision, anxiety and waiting, joy and eventually the challenge, is exactly the same as that for any other parents. There may be disagreement between husband and wife regarding the different issues of bringing up the child. But these challenges, and the difficulties associated with those, and the solutions you two together come up with, all this centres around the CHILD for her eventual well-being.

The aim of this article, and the website in general, is to give you an introduction to parenthood by adoption, to make you aware of the related issues, challenges and probably solutions, so that you can achieve a meaningful, joyful and smooth path to parenthood. We hope, at the end, we will be able to contribute, whatever little we can, to that objective. At the onset, we like to wish you all the best in your endeavour.