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CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN URBAN SCHOOLS

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Abstract

Corporal Punishment hasn't to be acceptable in schools, but still it is alive, it could be in different format like violence, sexual abuse and all. The corporal punishment could reflect large gap between children's and schools. It was banned in schools and also failed to make implementation what policy maker banned the corporal punishment. The actual problems to fail to implementation could be attributing to family-based and school-based factors. There are mixed opinions on corporal punishment from the parent's side, could be lack of awareness, and protections aspects are factors for that. Schools also no interested to enforce policy effectively, and lack of communication between teachers and parents could be another factors to be corporal punishment in schools. The aim of this study is to answer the main research question of why corporal punishment is being practiced in schools in spite of its legal ban. Answer to this question would allow us judge to what extent family and school administrations are responsible for these practices. The study found that the was higher level of corporal punishment was practiced in schools also found significant differences between male and female in experience corporal punishment in many dimensions. Moreover, the study demonstrate that corporal punishment in schools is highly correlated to family acceptance by practicing corporal punishment at home and lack of parental reporting of corporal punishment practiced by teachers. The limitations and implementations are discussed in the end of the paper.

Keywords: *Corporal Punishment, School Children's.*

Introduction

Corporal punishment is a form of physical punishment that involves the deliberate infliction of pain in order to punish a person convicted of a crime or as retribution for a perceived offence, including physical chastisement such as spanking, paddling, or caning of minors by parents, guardians, or school or other officials. The Oxford English dictionary defines Corporal Punishment as “punishment inflicted on the body; originally including death, mutilation, branding, bodily confinement, Irons, the pillory, Official punishment by the infliction of pain or injury, including flogging, branding, and amputation, was practiced in most civilizations since ancient times. However, with the growth of humanitarian ideals since the age of enlightenment, such punishments were increasingly viewed as inhumane, a barbaric relic of bygone times. By the late 20th century, corporal punishment had been eliminated from the legal systems of most developed countries.

In India Corporal punishment has become a common feature in schools. Several incidents of physical assault have been reported in the newspapers. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (2008) has suggested a code of regulations on the conduct of teachers in schools. A standout feature of the code is a total ban on corporal punishment. The National Policy on Education also states that corporal punishment is not permissible.

India and most of the case it would affect students' behavior and their school performances. Hence, the present study would investigate the issues of corporal punishment of urban students.

METHODS

Objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study had enumerated as follows:

- To understand the nature of corporal punishment experienced by urban area school students.
- To find out if there are differences in the corporal punishment meted out to male and female students.

Hypotheses of the study

Based on the above mentioned objectives the following hypotheses were formulated.

H1: There **will be higher level** of corporal punishment in urban schools.

H2: There will be **significant differences** between male and female students in experience of corporal punishment.

Research Design of the study

The research design was quantitative type and descriptive type nature.

Sample of the study

The sample of the present study was drawn from Bangalore South, Karnataka State. Sample would be consistent with the targeted groups of people exposed to or practicing corporal punishment 16 to 18 years' children. Totals of 85 young people who recently finished their school work were included in the sample, of whom 40 were male and 45 were female students. The sampling plan is processed through surveying recently graduated students from the BES College and National College Bangalore.

Tools/materials

1. Corporal Punishment questionnaire

The surveys included 12 questions for students. Answers to those questions were mostly multiple choices that varied between a 5-degree Likert Scale or yes/no answer.

Statistical Techniques of the Study : It was used to find out the distribution of the sample and the description of variables in the present study and t-test and ANOVA were used for the test.

Result Analysis and Discussion

Table 1: Corporal Punishment had experienced by the Respondents

Response	Male (40)		Female (45)		Total (85)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes	30	75	30	66.66	60	70.58
No	10	25	15	33.33	25	29.41

In this above table 75% of the male students and 66.66 % of the female students had experienced corporal punishment at school level. The difference between answers obtained by gender was highly significant ($t=6.074$, $p<.01$) which means male students reported more corporal punishment as compared to female students. Same result was found by the previous study (Kacker et al., 2007). Present study found significant differences between male and female student in corporal punishment which had experienced at school level. Therefore, as it was proposed hypothesis 'there will be significant differences between male and female students in experience of corporal punishment' has been accepted.

Table 2: The educational stage where students in the class were least beaten

	Male (30)		Female(30)		Total (60)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Primary school	14	46.67	4	13.33	18	30
Preparatory school	14	46.67	22	73.33	36	60
Secondary school	2	6.67	4	13.33	6	10

The study result show that an equal number of male and female students were least beaten (46.67%) in preparatory and primary school as compared to female students (73.33%) who reported that they were least beaten at primary level and at secondary level (13.33%). The present study result found that significant different ($t=5.741$, $p<.01$) between male and female had experienced regards to least beaten at their school level in corporal punishment.

Table 3: The educational stage where students were beaten most frequently

	Male (30)		Female(30)		Total (60)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Primary school	4.00	13.33	4.00	13.33	8.00	13.33
Preparatory school	6.00	20.00	8.00	26.67	14.00	23.33
Secondary school	20.00	66.67	18.00	60.00	38.00	63.33

The study result shows that male and female students' more beaten frequent was 66.67% and 60% respectively in secondary level of schooling. The study result found slightly similar result in both male and female students had experienced more beaten punishment in secondary level of schooling. The study result found that significant different ($t=2.946$, $p<.01$) between male and female students in most frequent beating in school level.

Table 4: Most Frequency of Beating as corporal Punishment

	Male (30)		Female(30)		Total (60)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
1-3 times per month	0	0.00	4	13.33	4	6.67
1-3 times per week	4	13.33	14	46.67	18	30.00
Almost daily	26	86.67	10	33.33	36	60.00
Rarely	0	0.00	2	6.67	2	3.33

There was however gender differences in the frequency of punishment experienced by girl and boy students. 86.67 % of the male students as against 33.33 % of the female student experienced 'Almost daily' beatings by their teachers in their educational institutions. A 46.67% of the female student as against 13.33 % of the male student experienced 1-3 times beatings per week by their teachers. The result found that there was a significant difference ($F=2.840$, $p<.01$) in most frequency was beating by male and female students.

Table 5: Reaction of students to the punishment received

Male (30)			Female(30)			Total (60)		
Stop the things I was beaten for	Inform my parents	Complain to the social worker	Stop the things I was beaten for	Inform my parents	Complain to the social worker	Stop the things I was beaten for	Inform my parents	Complain to the social worker
100	86.67	53.34	100	86.67	46.66	100	86.67	50.01

While the results were analyzed by gender, it was noted that there was no difference in the response pattern of first two categories of responses. The boys (53.34%) brought it to the notice of the Social worker against girls (46.66%). The result was showing significant different ($t=3.135$, $p<.01$) between male and female students' at inform to social worker categories of responses.

Table 6: Frequency of information to parents about beaten in class

	Male (30)		Female(30)		Total (60)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
On teacher's instructions	0	0.00	2	6.67	2	3.33
Sometimes	14	46.67	24	80.00	38	63.33
Never	16	53.33	4	13.33	20	33.33

The study result shows that 46.67% of the male students informed to their parents against 80.00% of female students as informed sometimes about to corporal punishment. The result found that a significant different ($t=-3.017$, $p<.01$) between gender to transfer the information to parents on corporal punishment. Sometimes both male and female students were informed to parents about their corporal punishment.

Table 7: Reaction of parents when you informed that beaten in class (by gender)

Sub Statements	Male			Female			Total		
	Tell me I must have done something wrong in class	Report it to the school principal	They did nothing	Tell me I must have done something wrong in class	Report it to the school principal	They did nothing	Tell me I must have done something wrong in class	Report it to the school principal	They did nothing
	80.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	66.67	66.67	80.00	83.33	73.33

While the results were analyzed by gender, it was noted that there was no significant difference in the response pattern except by more boys' parents (80.00%) brought it to the notice of the principal and did nothing against girls (66.67%). The result found no significant ($F= 12.708$) result between male and female students' at all three categories of responses. Also interesting is the finding that those who responded by saying that they informed their parents did so only sometimes.

Table 8: Consequences of beating at school

	Male				Female				Total			
	Had to get medical treatment	Missed time at school to rest at home	Reported to the school or to police	A scar in your body	Had to get medical treatment	Missed time at school to rest at home	Reported to the school or to police	A scar in your body	Had to get medical treatment	Missed time at school to rest at home	Reported to the school or to police	A scar in your body
Yes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
No	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

All children were not experienced any consequences of beating at the school level. They were not get into medical treatment, they were not missed their school for the reason of beating, it was not a became police issue and there was no mark at all in their body. Hence, there are no any differences between genders at any point regarding consequences of beating.

Table 9: Other student's physical punishment at school

	Male (30)		Female(30)		Total (60)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes all of them one way another	8	26.67	10	33.33	18	30.00
Most of them	6	20.00	8	26.67	14	23.33
Only some of them	16	53.33	12	40.00	28	46.67

The study result show that 53.33 % of the male students and 40.00 % of the female students were responded that was only some of other students were get physically punished in the stage of most frequently beaten in the class room. The present study result found that there was a significant different ($t=3.931$, $p<.01$) between male and female in only some of other students were get physically punished in the stage of most frequently beaten in the class room.

Table 10: The most severe incident that ever heard in school level- by gender

	Male (30)		Female(30)		Total (60)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
A male teacher	12	40.00	26	86.67	38	63.33
A female teacher	8	26.67	2	6.67	10	16.67
A male administrator	4	13.33	2	6.67	6	10.00
A female administrator	6	20.00	0	0.00	6	10.00

While the results were analyzed by gender, it was noted that 40.00 % of the male students and 86.67 % of the female students heard most severe incident that ever heard in school level from their male teachers. The result found a significant difference ($t=-4.483$, $p<.01$) between genders in category of punished by male teachers. Most of the time students ever heard most severe incident from male teachers instead of other at school environment.

Table 11: Physical punishment by school principal

	Male (30)		Female(30)		Total (60)	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Yes,1-3 times per month	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Yes, 1-3 times per week	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Yes, almost daily	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Once or twice	6	20.00	4	13.33	14	23.33
Never	24	80.00	26	86.67	46	76.67

While the results were analyzed by gender, it was noted that 80.00 % of male students and 86.67 % of the female students were never punished by the school principal. That only, 20.00% of the male students and 13.33 % of the female students punished by school principal once or twice in entire school period. The result found a significant different ($t=2.170$, $p<.05$) between genders for their response given to the option 'never'.

Table 12: Students responses to the Questions

	Male (30)						Female (30)					
	Physical punishment helped me perform better in class	Physical punishment corrected my behavior in class	Physical punishment made me dislike the school	Physical punishment made me hate teachers	Physical punishment made me challenge teachers	Physical punishment made me angry a lot	Physical punishment helped me perform better in class	Physical punishment corrected my behavior in class	Physical punishment made me dislike the school	Physical punishment made me hate teachers	Physical punishment made me challenge teachers	Physical punishment made me angry a lot
Agree	80.00	66.67	20.00	33.33	40.00	26.67	40.00	66.67	26.67	26.67	40.00	26.67

While the results were analyzed by gender, it was noted that 80% of the male and 40% of the female students were get helped from physical punishment for perform better in class. A 20% of the male and 26.67% of the female students were dislike the school for the punishment. 33.33% of the male and 26.67% of the female students were hate the students because of punishment. Moreover, same percentage of the male and female students were responded for correction of behavior, challenged against teachers and get angry due to physical punishment. The result ($F=2.908$, $p<.01$) value shows significant differences between male and female students in all question under this table. Since, analyzed by questions the results were found significant differences between male and female students. t -test and ANOVA were carried out to find the significant results. Hence as researcher assumed as it was proposed hypothesis 'there will be significant differences between male and female students in experience of corporal punishment' has been accepted.

Major Findings

- The present found higher level of corporal punishment among urban college students.
- The present study found significant gender differences in corporal punishment. Male students were experienced more corporal punishment compared to female students.
- Secondary school students were had experienced most beaten in the class room. Male students were had experienced more compared to female students.
- All students stop the academic work when they have beaten, so for this instants no significant difference between gender.

- Sometimes students had informed to parents about to corporal punishment, females have informed more frequently to their parents as compared to male students.
- All students were not experienced any consequences of corporal punishment, and present study found no significant differences between genders about to consequences of corporal punishment.
- The present study found most severe incident that students ever heard from a male teachers, and female students had experienced more if compared to male students.
- Students were not experienced more at parents meetings about to school performance and behavior that was about to once or twice in overall school periods.

Limitations of the Study

The major limitation is that due to the long time for permissions to Survey College going students and inaccurate answers expected to be obtained if surveys are to be conducted in, the option of surveying in the same college was not possible for this research.

Implication

This study extends and suggests that the teachers shall be encouraged to avoid corporal punishment as well as psychologically aggressive disciplinary methods and must use alternative forms of correction of students' misbehavior. In regard to attain such purpose, teachers training and education programs that emphasize alternative disciplinary tactics to corporal punishment and psychological aggression may make an important contribution to reconciliation of both students and teachers. In addition, awareness must be brought among teachers pertaining to the adverse impacts of corporal Punishment on students academics, psyche and personality development. Students shall be counseled through awareness programs for being polite and respectful to their teachers.

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