Spare the Rod and Spoil the Child

Corporal punishment should be used as a wider strategy and at the correct time when other disciplines have failed. It is the most effective form of punishment in maintaining school discipline and dealing with juvenile delinquency. Students in the current public school system are becoming unruly due to relaxed discipline and uninvolved parenting. Detention methods are insufficient, and so discipline should be just and swift.

Today it is not teachers or school administrators who run the school but students who run the show. Teachers are unable to command respect, they demand it with the result students not only disrespect teachers but even resort to heinous crimes. To get respect authority is a must and teachers taking this step at the right time will create a more disciplined set of students.

The great poet Rabindranath Tagore was dissatisfied with the western model of education and was keen on the 'Gurukul System of Learning'. It was a system where students and teachers lived together & teachers treated the students as their own children. They exercised great patience but as a parental figure the Guru had the moral & scriptural authority to punish the students. Punishments like caning, fasting etc were given. The guru took it upon himself to rectify the erring students. Eminent people like President Abraham Lincoln and Swami Dayanand were caned in school but this did not deter them from becoming great people.

Today with abandonment of corporal punishment, students are resorting to drug addiction, boozing, delinquency, violence etc. Courts are clogged with juvenile crime. Many a life with sin and shame can be warded off with discipline. In my opinion, the best way to discipline students in school is 'Don’t spare the rod as it spoils the child’ as even the Bible says: ‘He who spareth the rod, hateth his son: but that loveth him correcteth him.’

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Teachers are Helpless

From a teacher’s point of view, punishment is always given for the benefit of a student, not to oppress. But some times accidents do happen. So, teachers today avoid corporal punishment. But sometimes if a teacher scolds a student; smart students may show themselves as mentally harassed in front of others, some sentimental ones may even attempt suicide. So, how does a teacher control the bad behaviour of a fearless or shameless student? Teachers are helpless. We do not want to punish our sons/ daughters, because we are teachers not heartless butchers, but punishment should be allowed in schools to create some fear among bad guys.

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Corporal Punishment A Curse

Corporal punishment is one of the worst nightmares for school students. Even adults can’t bear such torture, then how can small kids bear the pain of corporal punishment. It not only affects the mental status of the student but also affects health. These lead to psychological...
problems. Physical violence causes wounds that leave a huge impact mentally and physically. Since the past few years, teachers have become so violent that they have ended up killing many innocent students. Increasing anger and impatience is leading to loss of lives of students, which is highly shameful. So, banning corporal punishment in schools is a must.

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**Shaping Future Personality**
The school is an institution under the roof of which many innocent souls learn the art of living. Allowing corporal punishment in such an institution do you think would be justified? Teachers build up the basic mindset of a child at school. The school environment influences a child to a great extent not only during the school life but also shapes up the child's personality in future life.

Therefore, teachers should not use physical threat to discipline a student understand. They should rather use friendly means so that a student enjoys his studies and bears a charming personality throughout his life.

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**Raising Strong Citizens**
Corporal punishment is illegal. It is similar to a crime. It does not make a child responsible rather it makes them violent and aggressive. Such victims behave in the same abusive manner with their friends and juniors. In many cases, sensitive students are unable to bear the depression and commit suicide. Physical tortures like caning, slapping and hitting severely damages the internal body parts. Hence, corporal punishment affects a child both mentally and physically.

Teachers should remember that students are the future citizens of a country and it is their duty to make them mentally and physically strong with love, care, attention and proper guidance. Hence, corporal punishment should be banned in schools.

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**Hampering Talent**
It is physical and mental torture. Nowadays, corporal punishment is common in schools. Teachers who want to transform them by hook or crook prefer corporal punishment. They should be just expelled from the school because this malpractice can greatly hamper the talent of the students.

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**Friend, Philosopher & Guide**
No, we must not allow corporal punishment in schools. In school-life, the students’ minds are very sensitive. Giving them corporal or physical punishment can create a bad effect in their mind. Then, they will respect their teachers out of fear, not from the depth of their heart. In many cases, they become very much depressed that they find death is better than living. The teacher is a friend, philosopher and guide for a student. We should behave with the students as friendly as we can.

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**Causes Environment of Fear**
No, corporal punishment are never to be allowed in schools. The school is a key ingredient in socialisation of young students. When corporal punishments are not allowed at military, mental institutions and prisons then why in the school, which is a temple of knowledge. Corporal punishment causes an environment of fear in the classroom and depression among students. As a result the all round development of students, which is the agenda of a school, is hampered.

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**Land of Ahimsa**
Corporal punishment imprints a sign of force & violence in the clean minds of innocent children. The mind & heart of children are like mud pallet. Any incident can have a deep impact on them. So, the physical punishment given by the teacher too can hurt the innocent heart. A sense of fear, force & violence envelops their mind, which may lead to a negative attitude.

India is the land of Lord Buddha, who taught ahimsa & Gandhi who proved it in the political spheres. Corporal punishment, which prevails in almost all schools seems to mock at the ideology of these great personalities. Media covers it too, but many times it goes unnoticed.

The teacher should be a role model for students and should handle children with care and patience.

**Debasmita Patra**
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**Emotional Scars**
Mostly school teachers try to show their heroism on kids, or school management is under intense pressure of performance, and at home parents are too much worried about their kid’s career or compare their kid’s performance with other kids families and finally end up beating them up.

Personally I don’t believe that corporal punishment either at school or at home works in changing behaviour. It instills fear, not discipline, and it can do untold psychological harm and at times cause even death or permanent disability. I can’t began to imagine the number of children who are growing up with emotional and physical scars in this country.

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Patience Required

Some teachers argue that students become attentive when there is fear of punishment. Discipline must come from nature and certainly not from some outside enforcement. The best teachers never used any sort of punishment. From my interaction with students, I can say that each child learns in her or his own individual way and every child deserves all love and care we can provide. All we, as teachers, need is Patience.

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Education with Dignity

I strongly opine that Corporal Punishment should not be allowed in schools for it is mental and physical abuse of child, humiliating, harmful, and against the dignity and self confidence of the child and its rights. The Supreme Court of India banned corporal punishment for children on 1 December 2000, and gave the direction to the state that “Children should not be subjected to corporal punishment in school & they receive education in an atmosphere of freedom and dignity”. The National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights also supports the opinion of the Supreme Court and also provides for forums and drop boxes to receive complaints of corporal punishments from both children and parents, and promises immediate action by Parent Teacher Associations on such complaints.

With love and affection, we can win over children, and inculcate discipline and interest in learning in them, and should not chastise them through brutal corporal punishment. I strongly advocate all states should strictly follow the Indian Supreme Court’s direction, and ban corporal punishment in schools; in addition, teachers should be given orientation training from time to time in behavioural science and humanism. “Spare the rod and spoil the child”, no longer holds good. Child abuse through corporal punishment is as bad and inhuman asragging in college campuses. Already Europe, Canada, New Zealand, Japan etc have removed corporal punishment. The sooner it is stopped the betterfor the physical and mental well-being of children.

Nirmala P. Rao

Dark Future

Punishment is given to someone to enable him or her to know that they have made a mistake and they should try to rectify it. If proper punishments are given to children then they would never commit the same mistake twice. Corporal punishments are not the way in which students get a chance to rectify themselves. Corporal punishments instill in them a sense of fear. It also affects their minds. They are terrified to go to school as a result of corporal punishments. And this results in a dark future for our young generation.

Saumoneel Mandal, West Bengal

Encouragement, Not Punishment

Corporal punishment makes the children arrogant and bitter. The mental agony students undergo when they are humiliated and ridiculed in the presence of others is unimaginable. Pummeling a child or beating her only ingrains in her/his psyche that aggressive behaviour is a way life. There are disturbing trends of children fearing school because of the abuse they were subjected to. Every child wants to be treated with respect but the scars of the trauma suffered in school affect the child throughout life.

A spate of cases of children driven to death by corporal punishment has come to light in recent months, which have shocked the conscience of the nation. Corporal punishment and humiliation inflicted on children is also an important reason for many of them dropping out of school. Studies conducted by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development show that two of every three school going children has been physically assaulted and mentally abused.

Discipline, as and when required, has to be firm but gentle. The youngsters should be corrected in a gentle and persuasive manner. Frequent parent-teacher interactions can help curb the menace of corporal punishment. School management must appoint teachers who not only hold the attention of the class but also are good human beings. Communication is very vital and teachers who have the skill can persuade erring students to take the correct path. Teachers must undergo compulsory orientation courses in child psychology. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) should direct district authorities across the country, instructing them to hold meetings with all the school heads and convey that no form of corporal punishment will be tolerated.

When education is a fundamental right the education system cannot wash its hands off a child. Here again there is a need for systemic reform to enable schools and teachers to provide different curricular experiences and activities to bring about greater awareness and change the so-called ‘deviant’ behaviour. Encouragement is needed for a child to develop, not corporal punishment.

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No Room for Fear

In my opinion inflicting punishment on school going kids is not at all advisable, although earlier parents regarded it as a necessary evil and adopted a feigned ignorance when confronted with this problem. In present times, child psychology clearly rules out this treatment. A growing child deserves sympathetic consideration. A child is fragile and should be treated with care and affection. A renowned child psychologist has aptly said that for the full development of the child there should be no room for fear psychosis. The tiny lot should look upon the teacher as a guide and not as a tyrant.

Shashi, Indore (M.P.)