What is wrong with Corporal Punishment?

A good school is everyone’s right!

Zero tolerance of corporal punishment!
Corporal punishment is:

Any punishment in which physical force is used to cause pain.

- hitting with hands or things,
- kicking,
- shaking,
- throwing,
- burning,
- pinching
- forced ingestion

It is also any non-physical punishment which belittles, humiliates, threatens, scares or makes fun of a child.
98% of children say they have experienced it ...

One out of three children say they experience it every week.
So? What’s wrong with that?

It’s what we grew up with, so we know it’s the best thing for our children!

My teacher beat me because he wanted me to learn!
We are not hurting our children!

Right! We are disciplining them!
But corporal punishment does

- Physical: It hurts my body!
- Emotional: It hurts my heart!
- Relational: It makes me not trust people!
It hurts! It has many consequences!

**Behavioural**

It makes me do bad things!

**Learning difficulties**

It makes it hard for me to learn!

Look what I mean!
Physical consequences

I have to fetch water and sweep the compound before I go to school, so I am always late!

I always get beaten for being late so, one day I hid in the bushes until class was over.
My teacher caught me and was so angry! She gave me 20 canes!

Rose, I’ll teach you to dodge class!

I’m sorry

She hit me so hard my parents had to take me to the hospital and I missed a week of school!

It hurts my body!!
Stella! You are so dirty all the time! Why can’t you be like other students?

But Madame...
Maybe you need to practice washing! Go to the matron’s house and wash all her clothing...

And think about how stupid you are too. You failed your math exam!

No one cares about me! I’ll never be good enough!

It hurts my heart
Behavioural consequences

Peter, I asked you to sweep the classroom. But you didn’t do it.

Teacher...

You’re lazy! Go get the broom and sweep now!
Later that day...
You stupid boy! You can’t play, you’re too little and slow!

Give me your water! I’m thirsty!

Why me? What did I do?

It makes me do bad things
Relational consequences

Hassan, stop talking! Hassan, stop kicking Hasifa’s chair!

Hassan, that’s enough! Carry 100 bricks up the hill. I will teach you a lesson for misbehaving!

I hate her! I’m going to annoy her everyday!
Next week...

Hassan, stop throwing papers! Didn’t you learn your lesson last week?

Hassan, talk to me, tell me what’s wrong! Why do you keep disturbing my class?

I hate you!

NO WAY!

It makes me not trust people!
Learning difficulties

Fatima, what’s the answer?

What’s wrong with this class? How many times have I taught this?

Fatima, come here! I’m going to teach this class to pay attention!
Wow, Fatima, you really got a beating!

I’m so nervous in class! I’m always afraid the teacher will call on me and I won’t know the answer!

I really studied, but I get so afraid, I can’t speak!

I wish our teachers would stop making us afraid.
THE NEXT WEEK

I’ve really studied!
I’m ready now!

Fatima, what’s the answer?
This girl is so stupid! She knows she’ll get beaten, yet she still won’t answer!

I know this will keep happening, but what can I do?

It makes it hard for me to learn. I feel stupid.
Corporal Punishment makes children feel bad...
but still, adults give many reasons for using it.
If a child doesn’t fear you, the child won’t respect you!

You must learn to respect your elders!

But you can’t force anyone to respect you!

That will teach him to respect me!
Give respect. Get Respect.

Teacher, here’s my essay for the competition.

That is great!

Thank you! You’re even early!
A good teacher is always in control of students.

Who is talking! I can hear you all the way from my office!

It wasn’t me! But I don’t understand the lesson!

But students stay quiet because they fear punishment...
Once the threat is gone

Poor behaviour returns...
Good teachers don’t control by beating and shouting.

I think...  
Great idea!

What about this...

You are so creative!

You can’t control imagination... You can only set it free!
I was beaten and I learned how to behave better!

**THEN:**
You’ll never understand science... you’re too stupid

**NOW:**
I didn’t understand science, and neither can you! You’re stupid

*but...*
Imagine how different your future could have been!

Then:

Science is hard for you, let me help you!

Now:
But if you spare the rod, you’ll spoil the child!

The biblical proverb was meant for a different time... The New Testament talks about love and forgiveness
As times change, so must we.

Religion never advocates for the use of violence against children!

The rod can be words and deeds that guide, not a stick that hurts.

And we would never spare guidance!
Using the cane is our tradition!
We don’t want outsider values!

But our tradition is **NOT** about hurting children!

It’s about respect, love and guidance.
We want our children to grow up appreciating their heritage...

...not fearing it!
But without pain, there is no gain!

My students perform well on their exams— they memorise everything because they fear the stick!

Really? But do they understand?
Salma, yesterday you memorised how to calculate surface area of a rectangle. Now how do you calculate surface area of a cylinder?

Learning under the stick makes us memorise!

We don’t learn how to think for ourselves!

We have become poor learners!
But I only use corporal punishment a little bit!
Imagine if your boss slapped you, just once, for finishing a report late?
I only use it as a last resort!

Oh no... I forgot my homework!

Ohh... Saad... you've really done it now! You're going to get a beating!

No... teacher won't hit me. She will believe me.
Saad... You’ve forgotten your homework! I don’t know what else to do!!

But I trusted you! You said you don’t hit students! I’m so confused!!!

Corporal punishment undermines student confidence!
Everyone agrees! Corporal punishment is not helpful!
All over the world, people are making commitments to stop using corporal punishment.
International policies spell out that commitment

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Children have the right to human dignity and physical integrity.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Children are protected from all forms of violence
- Discipline in school must respect children’s dignity.
- Children are not subjected to cruel or inhuman treatment.

Committee on the Rights of the Child.
Complete prohibition of corporal punishment.
African policies spell out this commitment

African charter on the rights and welfare of the child.

Children must be treated with dignity and respect when disciplined at home or at school.

- Children are entitled to respect for life and integrity of person.
- Children have a right to be protected from degrading punishment.
Ugandan policies spell out this commitment

Constitution of Uganda

Children have a right to be educated without humiliating and degrading treatment.

Children Act Caps 59

Parents, community members, teachers have a responsibility to protect children from discrimination, violence, abuse and neglect.
The government has banned corporal punishment!

Director of Education Circular 2006

- Corporal punishment must stop.
- Use of the cane is not permitted.
- All disciplinary action must be recorded.
- If corporal punishment is used, teachers will have to face the courts of law.
- The ultimate goal is to know and understand the needs of young people.
A Good School follows these global, regional and national policies.
A Good School creates its own zero-tolerance to corporal punishment policy.
In a Good School

I feel safe and protected!

I learn better without fear!

I get respect, so I give respect!

A Good School does NOT use corporal punishment. Good School at your school?
punishment. Are you creating a

School...

I have role models who help guide my behaviour!

I trust my teachers!
What can you do about corporal punishment?

- Personally commit to never using corporal punishment.
- Create a zero-tolerance policy in your school.
- Learn about and use positive discipline.
- Listen to students and understand their problems.
- Talk to others about the benefits of non-violence.
- Get creative! Try new ideas in your classroom.
How to use this booklet

• Read this book together with other students or teachers and discuss the effects of corporal punishment.
• Research the laws and policies that govern your school district and your country. Discuss what they mean.
• Hold a debate using the reasons adults give for using corporal punishments.
• Create a drama around the stories showing how corporal punishment hurts children.
• Share the ideas in this booklet with your family members. Family discipline should be violence-free too!
• Use the Good Schools Toolkit to create safer schools.
Write your ideas here.

Notes

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ideas here.