

Analysis of the Causes of Corporal Punishment in Chinese Children's Education

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ABSTRACT

Punishment is a way for parents and teachers to educate children and make children realize their mistakes. However, this data shows a high rate of corporal punishment used in Chinese education and many Chinese children will experience this painful punishment method during their growth. This paper will discuss why Chinese corporal punishment in Chinese children's education from discovering much evidence from the resources. The author finds out that the main source of corporal punishment education was origin from the China education history and the psychological feature of parents and teachers. In order to improve this situation, relief parent's stress from their daily life was necessary. Government should also complete the laws to protect children from corporal punishment. Moreover, society should try to change people from following the tradition education ideas.

Keywords: Chinese education/ corporal punishment/ Chinese parents/ Chinese teacher/ Chinese education history

1. INTRODUCTION

If people want to know about what would their parents do when they were in trouble, many Chinese will talk about how did their parents put corporal punishment on them in their childhood, like beating them or don't provide food to them. Although China wasn't the only country that uses corporal punishment globally, lots of Chinese corporal parenting and teaching cases attracts people's attention. In 2002, one Chinese high school 10th grader died in the local hospital. The reason for the tragedy is that his classroom teacher and the 10th grade main educator consider that he has an improper uniform appearance, thus they slap his face. Unfortunately, this causes student's cardiac disease[3]. This paper wants to discover the reason why corporal punishment occurs so commonly in China by discussing parents and teachers' psychological activities and China's education history. Therefore, can refine China's education system from dealing with adult's wrong attitudes and improve children's environment that benefits their growth.

2. ANALYSIS OF THE REASONS FOR THE EXISTENCE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN CHINESE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

First, traditional parenting methods and stressful living environment are the primary factors that cause corporal punishment of children. The living environment in China will affect parents' education methods. China is a country with a strict learning system and has only a few opportunities for the new generation. Therefore, forcing children to pay more attention to their study and get an excellent grade has become one of the most important goals for each Chinese parent. Some children who do not live up to their parents' expectations are subject to corporal punishment. Corporal punishment is considered by parents to be the most common and effective form of education. In this way, children can be afraid of them, so that children will obey the rules set by their parents in fear[4]. Some parents want to use corporal punishment to push their children to have a promising future then reach higher status in society. However, other parents pressure their children for satisfying their own needs. These parents regard their children as their private assets, and they look forward to their children becoming better than other "assets". Thus, they will keep exerting a lot of pressure on their children and use corporal punishment to

force them to follow their mission rather than care about their children’s health. The report shows that the children who don’t participate well in school have more 5.6 times of possibilities for getting serious corporal punishment

than general children, and have more 2.9 times of possibilities for getting mild corporal punishment than the general children. [4].

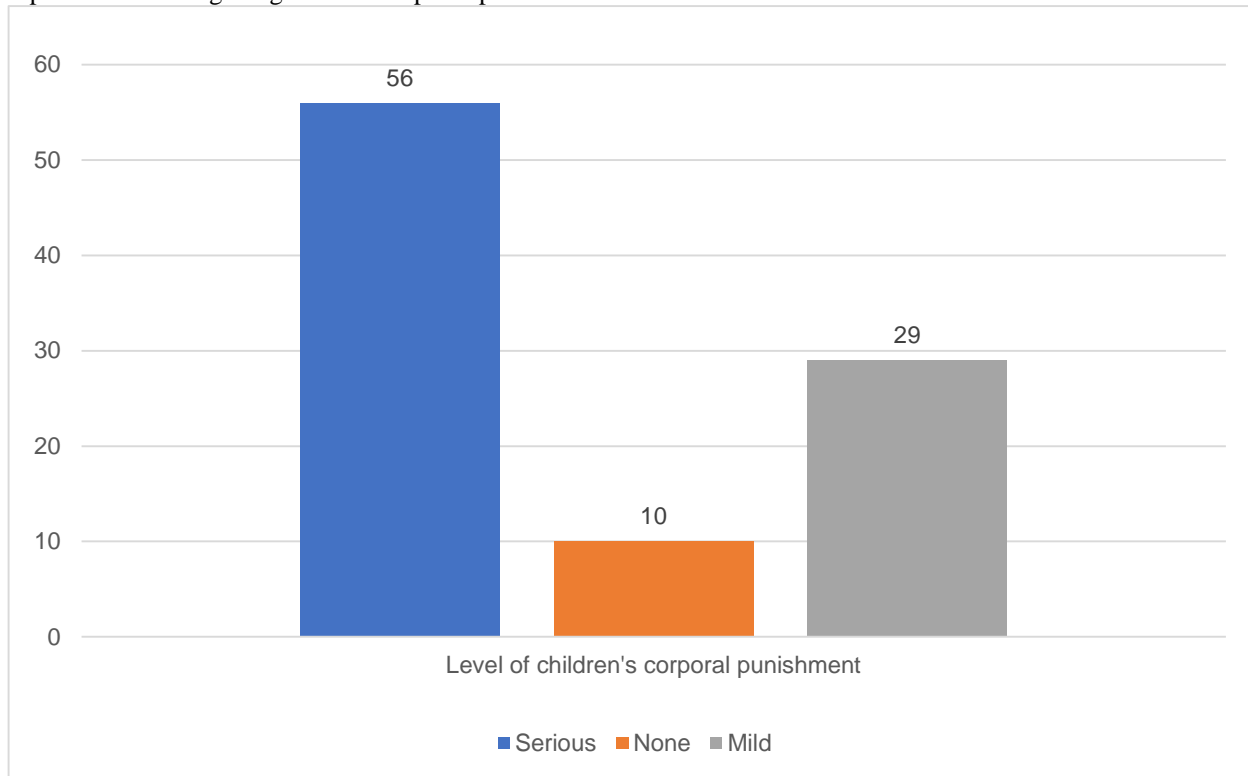


Figure 1 The possibilities of getting corporal punishment

Nowadays, fast-speed-society gives adult people a lot of pressure, and more respect is gathered in high social status. Parents who can’t reach this status will meet a lot of conflicts during working, and this will gain their pressure which will cause psychological problems such as anxiety and depression. While facing their children, especially naughty children or children who could not stable their emotions, these parents would be hard to control their bad emotions. They can get angry easily, then they will use corporal punishment to express their emotion to their children. Additionally, corporal punishment is also connected with parents’ childhood. Parents often use their parent’s parenting methods as their first educating methods. Many parents were also subjected to corporal punishment when they were young, so they will also apply this to their children.

Second, teachers maintain a huge part in children’s education, and some teachers also use corporal punishment on their students. Teachers have their life; they have family and their own children. If they met difficulties in daily life, it will also increase their psychological problem and weaken their mental health. This then will affect teacher’s teaching equality, because teachers can’t control their negative emotions, and they may make the use of corporal punishment for emotional expression. Furthermore, parents and school managers

like school principals will put more work load on teachers that will lead teachers to feel stressed.

One part of parents will incur conflict with teachers while they are not satisfied with children’s grade because they think it was teacher’s responsibility to raise children’s grade, no matter how naughty the children were. School managers won’t admit teachers’ effort if there’s no good grade student in their class. This helpless stress will make teachers upset. Nonetheless, there were few institutions that raise the possibility that teachers would use corporal punishment. There are schools that will encourage teachers to compel their student’s study, which the better grade their student gets, the more money award the school will give to the teacher. Such a system will press teachers to focus more on student’s grades the teachers will use corporal punishment to urge students to keep studying. Some teacher use corporal punishment is because they found there have successful cases that student gets good grades under corporal punishment, thereby they want to try using corporal punishment to make their student focus on study. Some traditional teachers using corporal punishment is because they regard class rules and respect of teachers as a very important part of school. These teachers want to win respect from their students and make them follow their rules from beating them and gain their fear. The teacher with unhealthy personality will use corporal punishment

is because they feel stressed about raising students' grades, so they beat students for the purpose of beating animals that wouldn't move forward.



Figure 2 The plamer



Figure 3 The sad Chinese children facing corporal punishment

Thirdly, corporal punishment has already become one part of the Chinese education culture. In Chinese history, people can easily find that the application of corporal punishment was very common between elder people like teachers and parents to children. There even have a special apartments for punishing students in Ming Dynasty. Student who didn't respect to teacher or do other thing wrong will be punished in these apartments.

Specific punishing tools like plamer, a flat stick in the shape of a ruler occurs at the same time. In ancient China, there were many private schools for children to study. In the private school, a teacher was the person who was the most respected. Teachers can do whatever they want to their student, including corporal punishment. Corporal punishment was a useful tool for an adult to make children follow the rule quickly and efficiently than other

education methods in ancient China. Additionally, teachers in ancient China have to learn how to be a teacher by themselves. Whereas, they were forced to read the same books as their teacher does, which is "The Four Books". These books told the readers that corporal punishment was advisable. From reading and accepting the traditional idea, corporal punishment was passing through the generations. This is the reason why many parents and teachers use corporal punishment and think it is reasonable. Corporal punishment is among the bad traditions. And these bad traditions are something that Chinese parents and teachers need to intentionally avoid.

3. MEASURES TO REDUCE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

According to the three sides that list above, the key issue can be found. It is essential to deal with parent and teachers' unbalanced psychological feeling and problems and found the solution from aiming these psychological phenomenon. For the purpose for refine the education system, there should have measures to reduce corporal punishment. First, relief parent's stress from their daily life was necessary. Public place like community or company can create a room for release parent's stress. Parents can scream or damage some useless objects to make them feel better. Thus, they will bring less negative feeling to their children. Second, government should complete the laws to protect children from corporal punishment. This gives children a chance to protect themselves from getting harm, also control adult's idea to put corporal punishment on children. Moreover, society should try to change people from following the tradition education ideas. People can open some new social media accounts to express the new idea of education, or discuss the disadvantaged of corporal punishment to let citizens recognize that it's wrong to applying corporal punishment.

4. CONCLUSION

All in all, the reason why corporal punishment happens so common in China can be explained from parents' issue, teachers' issue and the education history in China. We found the basic problems that brings out the application of corporal punishment is because these adults have immature psychological feelings and people are having wrong educational concept throughout China education history. Parent thought corporal punishment was a useful way for educate their child. However, this was an immature behaviour to use the old way of education than apply a better way for building their educating skills for their children. Many teachers will out be teaching as a job in order an important role for children's growth. They may easily extend their daily pressure in to their job, which is toxic for children. The roughest part to change was the concepts from Chinese's education culture. Corporal punishments have joined

China's education system long time ago, and teacher has the right to do corporal punishment for a long time. Although corporal punishment was recently decreasing, but the high possibility that corporal punishment would occurs still a serious problem. This paper can't provide much details of how to deal the corporal punishment in China. People should start to accept new education concept, but not corporal punishment anymore. People should excavate more efficient ways to wipe out the corporal punishment, and give our next generations a better future.

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