

Is corporal  
punishment an  
effective discipline  
technique for families  
or does the...

[Linguistics](#), [English](#)



Corporal Punishment Parents and caregivers globally view corporal punishment, as the ideal form of punishment through which they can change a child's behavior or characters. However, studies conducted show evidence that corporal punishment can achieve the desired results, if well administered, or can cause psychologically harm to a child. In this paper, I will seek to analyze and give evidences of instances where corporal punishment is effective, and then analyze its long-term effects on a child. Corporal punishment has short-term effect of eliciting immediate suppression of unwanted behavior from a child when administered. This is because the main idea behind punishment of a child is to discourage unwanted behavior immediately; corporal punishment is usually effective in achieving this goal (Holden et al., 1999). According to Gershoff 2002), the prime objective that most parents have while administering corporal punishment on to their children is to stop them from being disobedient at once. Corporate punishment is effective if and only if it is administered after a transgression and must be immediate and should not be discriminated. However, even though all these criterions are met, most of parents fail to achieve the desired results from the child, hence in the end; corporal punishment tends to lose meaning and purpose. The common ground and goal, which is to ensure that the child gets meaning from the punishment, fails (Larzelere, 2000).

Corporal punishment has failed to allow children to develop moral internalizations on their own, since instead of promoting better social behavior corporal punishment hinders this attribute. This is because even

though corporal punishment achieves this in the short term, the moral internalization of a child is affected (Gerdshoff, 2002). They further state that, the long-term socialization goal for a child development is to take behavior and attitude as their own internal development, and not be driven by anticipation of external consequences such as from corporal punishment. Clearly, a child needs to be given room and space to develop mentally and make judgment calls for their actions, without being driven by consequences of corporal punishments (Afifi, 2012).

Moreover, corporal punishment has the impetus of encouraging antisocial and aggressive behaviors among children in the end. This is true since the administration of this form of punishment negatively affects parent child relation. According to the attribution and social control theory posed by Burt et al. in Gershoff (2002), corporal punishment inhibit child's ability to internalize values and decrease child's ability to internalize parent's value, and in turn inputs resentment towards the parent by the child. This means that in the event of punishing a child, the child may not learn a lesson and, they may as a result develop antisocial and aggressive behavior towards others including their parents and caregivers (Straus, 1991).

In conclusion, corporal punishment can cause more harm than good to a child's psychological growth. Therefore corporal punishment is ineffective, as it risks making a child aggressive and antisocial, thus, affecting the relationships they may have with others, and may increase cases of home violence.

## References

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