

**JIMMA UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE AND LAW
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**Parents Knowledge Attitude and practice Towards Child
Right and Corporal Punishment. A Case of Agaro Town
Kebele 01 Ketena 01**

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I

Abstract

The objective of this study is to assess parents knowledge attitude and practice towards child right and corporal punishment. In Agaro town kebele 01 ketena 01 from the total population the researcher take 106 samples of population by using systematic random sampling technique In order to collate data the data research use self adminsted questionnaire this include both open and close ended. The collected data analyzed through qualitative and quantitave research analyzed method regarding quantitative the researcher use percentage and qualitatively the researcher used narrative description. The result shows that there is a big knowledge deficit about child right and corporal punishment us a method of declining. Also the researcher find out thee was no significant parental differences. Both in attitude and practice of child copal punishment. Finally, in order to alleviate the problem the researcher, recommends the following practice.

- *Strong effort should be exerted to upgrade the knowledge attitude and practice of prentice towards child right and corporal punishment.*
- *Using local media like FM since now a day the most influential and awared the parities about child right and corporal punishment.*

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1.1 Introduction

Back ground of the study

Corporal punishment is used most often for disobedience or where there is a threat to a person, including a child punished, or to property. In its origins, corporal punishment had nothing to do with punishment & protection. It reflects the old belief that children must be 'broken' like horses & hawks to the will of adults. It was believed that obedience to authority must be instilled through regular beating without this, children cannot and will not learn. (Watkinson, & Mc Gill, 1996).

Though the UN has endorsed the child right convention (CRC) in 1991, corporal punishment specially spanking is a most universally practiced and supported by parents, pediatricians and family physicians for example 85% of American believed that "a good and spanking" is some time necessary and 90% of parents report spanking their toddlers (Buaman L.J. & Friedman S.B, 1998). Similarly 70% of parent of Canadian admit to having hit or spanked their children Durrant, et.al, (as cited in David shelter 1996)

Though there is no available data as to the prevalence of corporal punishment in Africa, one report state that.

" for most Kenyan children, violence is a regular part of the school experience. Teachers use canning, slapping and whipping to maintain class room discipline and to punish children for poor academic performance. The inflict of corporal punishment is routine, arbitrary and often brutal bruises and cuts and by products of school punishment and more severe injury (Broken bones knocked out teeth, internal bleeding) are not infrequent at time, beating by parents leaves children permanently disfigured disabled or dead" Kenya spare the child 09/994/106,

According to Ethiopia health science journal as explained by Girma, 1997. In Ethiopia corporal punishment has persisted so long that its now tradition of the whole of Ethiopian population. It is believed the way children at Sunday school and Quran Schools punished has contributed a lot, among most of the population conservatives accepts what their religious leaders do. There for this study is conducted with the aim of providing information on the extent of corporal punishment in Agaro Kebele 01 and its surroundings.

1.2 Statement of the problem

It is culturally believed in Ethiopia parents know what is best for their children, children cannot choose but have to accept the choices made for them by parent usually with the best intention. Unfortunately intentions may deprive a child from its basic right practices considered as right in modeling children in the desired shape can be harmful and create serious problem on children's physical emotional, social and psychological needs. This condition more pronounced in the situation where severe corporal punishment of children are being observed as reflected in the increasing number of crimes of child abuse reported to police and actual case of child physical abuse presented by media. (Girma, 1997) taking this in to consideration to deal with the issue of child corporal punishment effectively and to minimize it requires understanding of knowledge, attitude, and practice of parent. Therefore, this study will try to answer the following basic research questions.

- What is the knowledge of parents towards corporal punishment.?
- What is the attitude of parents towards corporal punishment.?
- In what way parents administer corporal punishment. ?

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 General objective

The general objective of this study is to explore the knowledge, attitude, and practice of parents in Agaro town towards child right and corporal punishment.

1.3.2 Specific objective

The specific objective of this study is:-

- To assess the knowledge of parents about the of corporal punishment.
- To identify the attitude of parents towards corporal punishment.
- To explore how parents administer corporal punishment.

1.4 Significant of the study

The study was theoretical as well as practical significance. Theoretically, It will provide a psychological and social insight in to issues surrounding the development of children who are corporally punished. Besides it's the article significance, this study will serve. Some practical purpose. It is the belief of the researcher that the result of the study will offer essential information to higher institution authorities about psychosocial problem of corporally punished children. The result of the study can also shed light on the intervention strategies to be taken for the children who are corporally punished. Furthermore, It provide basic information for parents, educators, psychologists and for other concerned bodies. Moreover, It gives insight for further research study.

1.5 Delimitation of the study

This study was conducted in Agaro town, kebele 01 this area is located Oromia region, Jimma Zone and Agaro town, the study mainly focus on the attitude knowledge and practice of parents about corporal punishment to right their children. Then scope of this study is parents live in Agaro town, kebele 01 residents.

1.6 Operational definition

1. **Child:-** is young boy and girls between infancy and adolescence.
2. **Child abuse:-** is an act by parents or care givers resulting that deprive of children their equal right.
3. **Corporal punishment:-** is a physical punishment that uses pain but not injury in order to correct or control an individuals (child)
4. **Physical punishment:-** punishing children by using force for discipline purpose.
5. **Emotional abuse:-** is nonphysical abuse this may involve verbal abuse, demeaning or sharing the victim.

1.7. Limitation of the study

Though a lot of effects were exerted to convince the respondents about the anonymity of the information some respondents failed give full information

CHAPTER TWO

2. Literature Review

Many parents know that yelling at, stamping, & spanking children for misbehavior are ineffective disciplinary practices. A sharp reprimand and/or use of physical force to restrain or move a child is justified when immediate obedience is necessary, for example when a three-year-old is about to turn into the street. In fact, parents are most likely to use forceful methods under this condition when they want to reach faster long-term goals, such as acting kindly towards others. They tend to rely on warmth and reasoning. Kuczynski, (as cited in Laura Berk, 2007) parents often spank in response to children's misbehavior yet the punishment itself models misbehavior; such as acting which prompts a focus on their own distress rather than sympathetic reason to other needs. Holden, Coleman, & Schmidt, (as cited in Laura Berk 2007).

The UN has endorsed a child rights convention, this is signed by FDRE in 1992. The convention in article 19 (Zelege, 2000 as cited in Ethio. Journal of Health Science)

“State parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social & educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse while in care of parents, legal guardians and any other person who has the care of children” page 25

This statement is also restated in article 17 on Africa's character on the right and welfare of childhood, 2000. It is the most highly ratified human rights agreement in history. The convention is important because it serves to focus attention on children's issues and it provides the legal basis for improving the living conditions of children worldwide. The convention seeks to establish certain minimum standards that all governments that sign the document agree to follow, guaranteeing children's basic needs, protection and freedom.

By stopping children's misbehavior temporarily, harsh punishment after immediate relief to adults. For this reason, a punitive parent is likely to punish with greater frequency over time, a course of action that can spiral into serious abuse. Parents whose parents used corporal punishment are more accepting of such discipline (Deater-Deckard, (as cited in Laura Berk 2007)

The more harsh treats, angry physical control and physical punishment children experience, the more likely they are to develop serious lasting mental health problem, this include weak internalization of moral rules; depression, aggression, and antisocial behavior and poor academic performance in child hood and criminality of Children and parents child abuse in adult hood Brenzine et al, 1999 cited in Laura Berk)

The measure of deprivation of foods and exposure to the irritate fumes of Durant powdered paper is probably indicative of the “tip of the ice berg” since this is a sensitive point and some parents may have refrained from admitting to such practice and the practice of beating and disciplinary deprivation of food are quite high. Illustrative of the child maltreatment embraced by cultural norms that undermine children Daka, 1991 (as cited in Etio, Journal of Health, science)

Parental intention behind child punishment is disciplining for the ultimate benefit of child the bound of acceptable punitive action need to be spelled out and legal as well as paralegal mechanism to in force this should be strengthened Balcha 1997 (cited in Ethio Journal of Health, science,)

Chapter Three

3 Methodology

3.1 Study Area

The study was conducted in Agaro town, kebele 01ketena 01. Agaro was located in South West of Ethiopia 390 km far away from Addis Ababa capital city of Ethiopia at in the way of Jimma , the researcher conducted only on this area due to different factors like financial and time gap limitation researcher was had.

3.2 Study Design

A cross sectional study design was employed.

3.3 Sampling size and sampling technique

3.3.1 Sampling Size

10% of parents who live in Agaro town 01 kebele specifically ketene 01 was selected from 1068 the total number of parents those are considered as a source of population from this number fathers cover 488 and 580 mothers, the study had 106 respondents to explore the parents knowledge, attitude and practice about child right and corporal punishment.

3.3.2. Sampling Technique

The sample was selected using systematic random sampling technique in this study the researcher used this technique so that all parents who live in Agaro kebele 01, Ketena 01 was equal chance for selection and since the parents of the study is heterogeneous.

3.4. Sampling procedure

The sampling technique that the researcher was used systematic random sampling method during this the researcher was take a list of name from kebele 01 managements in prepare sampling frame at the end the researcher was subtract all number of parents to the sample size the prepared is 106 parents

$$K = \frac{\text{Number of house hold}}{\text{Sampling size}} = \frac{1068}{106} = 10.8 \approx 10$$

The first house was selected using lottery method

3.5. Instrument of data collection

The researcher was used questioner as the instrument of data collection and where researcher was used both close ended and open ended questions to explore the knowledge and practice of parents to wards corporal punishment . Additionally , the researcher was used likert scale question are to understand the attitudes of parent to wards corporal punishment.

3.6 Data Collection Procedure

The research was relieve permission from Agaro town kebele 01 management body to collect data. The questionnaire was distributed to sample respondents in this leaving place finally, the researcher converts the respondents response to numerous form for the purpose of easing the analysis of data.

3.7 Method of data analysis

The method of data analysis was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively. In the case of quantitative method of analysis, percentage, frequency and tabular was used to explore the parents knowledge, Attitude and practice of child right o and corporal punishment on their children the collected data was organized based on the content of the questionnaires and interview employed. Finally depending on the analysis, interpretation, conclusion, and recommendation was given based on the result of research of the study.

3.8.Ethical consideration

- First I was get willingness from our department of psychology.
- Written consent was obtained from the administrators of the kebele after explaining the relevance of the study.
- Verbal consent was obtained from every respondent and at a time of integration the interviewer was as polite as possible.

Chapter four Result

The study included a total of 106 parents. The data were gained from this respondent through questionnaire, out of which 68 mothers and 29 fathers interviewed how ever 9 questionnaires were discarded mainly due to in completed and incoherent information.

Table one age group of respondent.

age	No of respondents	Percentage
25 – 30	3	93%
31 – 35	9	9.2%
36 – 40	42	43.2%
41 – 45	28	28.8%
>46	15	15.4%
Total	97	100

Source :questionnaire

Table one shows that from the respondent about 42(43.2%) were between the age of 36-40 and 28(28.8%) of them were between the age of 41-45 year, and 9 (9.2%) of the parents were between the age of 31 -35 years the remaining 3(3%) of respondents are between the age of 25 – 30 year this implies that the majority of parents age in the study are between 36 – 40 year.

Table two marital status of respondents

Item	No of respondents	Percentage
Married	81	83.5%
Divorced	8	8.2%
Unmarried	8	8.2%
Total	97	100

The above table show that about 81(83.5%) the respondents were married and 8(8.2%) were divorced the remaining 8(8.2%) were unmarried this indicates the majority of the respondents were married.

Table three educational status .

Item	No of respondents	Percentage
Illiterate	57	58.7%
1-8	22	22.6%
9-11	10	10.3%
Diploma	7	7.2%
Degree	1	1%
Total	97	100

The 57(58.7%) of the respondent illiterate, 22(22.6%) of the respondents ware 9-11, 7(7.1%) of respondent were got diploma in their educational status the remaining (1%) of respondents got, a degree this implement majority of respondent were illiterate in this research area

Table five Ethnic back ground of respondents

Item	No of respondents	Percentage
Oromo	40	41.2%
Gurage	31	31.9%
Amhara	15	15.4%
Kefa	8	8.2%
Tigre	3	3.1%
Total	97	100

Source: Questionnaire

The above table 5 shows that the ethnic back around of respondents hence it indicated 40(41.2%) of respondent were Oromo, 31,(31.9%) of respondent were Gurage, and (15.4%) of respondent are Amhara 8(8.2%) of respondent were Kafa, the remaining 3(3.1%) a respondents for this investigation were Tigre this implies that majority of respondent were Oromo for this study.

Table six monthly incomes of the respondents

Item	No of respondents	Percentage
<100	28	28.8%
100 – 500	45	46.3%
501 – 1000	18	18.5%
>1000	6	6.1%
Total	97	100

Source Questionnaire

The above table six shows that monthly . income of respondents hence it indicated that 28(28.8%) of respondent were got less one hundred for their monthly in come, 45 (46.8%) of respondent were got 100 – 500 for their monthly means 18 (18 ,5,5) of respondent were got (501 – 1000) as their monthly the mining 6(6.1%) as respondents were got above 1000 as their monthly in come this imply that majority of respondent of this investigation were got 500 – 100 as monthly

Table seven occupations of the respondents

Item	No of respondents	Percentage
Merchant	26	26.8%
Gov employee	18	18.5%
Farmer	4	4.2%
Daiy laboral	19	19.5%

House wife	30	30.9%
Total	97	100

Source : Quacionnare

The above from those 26(26.8%) them are table of shows that occupation of respondents were merchants 18 (18.5%) of respondent were governance employes 4(4.1%) of respondents were farmer, 19(19.5) of respondent were daily laborars and the not 30 (3.9%) of respondent were participate in different mini work this implies that majority of study still did not have good income.

Knowledge of parent about child right and corporal punishment

The majority of the parents know the existence of child right convention about 57(587%) have information, but 40(40.7%) of the parents are do not know the existence of child right convention in the Ethiopian constitution.

The majority of the parents believed corporal punishment is effective way of disciplining a child. And also about 43.4% of parents define child abuse means in their own statements.

Table 8, the most commonly used methods of child punishment by parents

(Practise)

Methods of	No	Percentage
Whipping	42	43
Pinching	23	13.7
Exposure to burn paper	2	2
Spanking	15	15.4
Whipping and punching	12	12.3

The most commonly employed method of corporal punishment by the parents is shipping using belts, sticks ... that figure 42(43%) pinching is other common way of punishing children 23(23.7%) specially for smaller children . Two of the parents reported accessional use exposure to fumes of burnt paper when they believed that the child has committed the worst mistake. Spanking also practiced in 15(15.4%) among parents about 12 (12.3%) are use the combination whipping and pinching.

Table 9, when the parents use cp

The interval punish children	No	%
As long as he commit mistake	10	10.3
Repeat some mistake	14	14.4
If not obedient to a devices given	31	31.9
Intentionally to building up a favorable behavior	44	45
Total	97	100

The study revealed on 85(87.6%) prevalence of physical punishment of child as a measure of disciplining children most of the parent 45.3% of parents punish their children with the intention of building up favorable behavior as they grow up and also quit high number of parents about 31.9% are be lived child are not like to listen to advice 14.4% of parents punish their children when they repeat some mistakes 10.3% parents reported they will punish their children physically when they are as long as committing mistake but non of the parents made gender preference in physically punishing their children.

Result regarding to parents attitude to wards corporal punishment

Item	Positive respondent		Negative respondent		Neutral	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
Corporal punishment is the best way of disciplinary technique	60	61.8	17	17.6	20	26
Corporal punishment has no impact on the community	16	16.3	67	68.9	16	16.4
Corporal punishment is use issue full for children's emotional stability	34	35	48	49.1	13	15.6
Punishment by court is more use full than corporal punishment	27	27.7	50	51.4	10	10.3
It is better to use counseling on children rather than corporal punishment	64	66	20	20.8	13	13.4

N.B - Positive responses is strongly agree and agree .

- Negative responses is strongly disagree and disagree

- Neutral responses are difficulty to decide .

The above table shows that 6(61.8%) of parents responded that corporal punishment, is the best way to discipline 17(17.6%) of the parents have negative respond for the above argument, and 20(20.6%) of parents are said that neutral to decide and also from those parents 16(16.3%) of parents positively respond for corporal punishment has no impact for the community, but the majority of the respondents were about 67(68.9%) of them negatively responded for the above argument and 16(16.4) of the respondents were neutral about 27(27.7%) of parents were positively responded with the argument of legal more use full than corporal punishment 50(51.4%) of them are negatively responded and 10 (10.3%) of them are said neutral.

Lastly 64(66%) of parents positively responded with the argument. it is better to use counseling on children rather than corporal punishment and from the parents 20(20.8%) are negatively responded for the above response, and the remaining 13(13.4%) of parents are neutral of or this argument.

Chapter five

Discussion

The knowledge on child right convention among the parents are found to be 58.7% a figure which is very small and suggests that a lot of efforts should be done by the government policy implementers to upgrade and increase the knowledge of the residents about the convention the same study are conducted in Jimma town indicates that the knowledge and awareness of child right was noted to be lacking in majority the respondents, particularly so when it comes to the knowledge of child protection right in the Ethiopian code of law, and on the right children should enjoy (Balcha, 1997) . As cited Ethio Journal of Health science.

The majority of parents punish their children within the intention of favorable behavior as the Childs growth up on the other study conducted Jima town while parental intentions behind child punishment is “disciplining” for the ultimate benefit of the child” the bound of acceptable punitive action need to be spelled out and legal as well as paralegal mechanism to in force this should be strengthened. (Balch, 1997). As cited Ethio Journal of Health science

It is also noted that only 43.4% parents could define what child abuse means properly in their own statement then we suggesting a lot of children could be abused with the context of physically punishing a child for its ultimate benefit.

Two parents reported exposure to fumes of burnt paper one parent burning them in afire as a made of punishment of their children when the degree of committed mistake the study reported practice of such punitive measure like the depravation of food and the exposure to the irritant fumes of burnt paper indicative of the “tip of the iceberg” (Balch, 1997). As cited in Ethio Journal Health science

The child corporal punishment prevalence in the study is high (87.6%) as compared to the study done in Jimma town (50.6%) (Balch 1997). As cited in ethio Journal of health science which should alert all the responsible bodies should address the majority of the population that resides in around rural setting.

This finding suggests that though there are some people in the study communities with the knowledge of child right convention, they still have unfavorable attitudes to wards it.

Summary conclusion and recommendation

6.1. Summery and conclusion

The main purpose of this study was to assess the knowledge, altitude and practice of partout to wards child and corporal punishment the case of Agaro kebele 01 dewiors.

By usefully different mechanism of analyzing methods like percentage the researcher kind identified more was lack of knowledge toward children right and about corporal punishment consocunse in this investigation the researcher also assess putouts attitude towards corporal punishment so grading this the researcher fined out that majority sample of population of this study positive attitude towards using corporal punishment.

According to the information gathered from the respondents by using questionnaire expressed that parents were used corporal punishment by pinching, whipping, exposure to burnt paper and spanking

Generally the researcher conclude that majority sample population of this investigation were have not knowledge about child right and the consequence of corporeal punishment also, still positive attitude to wards using corporal punishment . since child need warmth environment from their parent in order to develop good self esteem, self confidence, interior personal skill and psychological were not knowledgeable about negative affect of corporal punishments finally the researcher need to recommend parents a wariness creation program should provided to the community for this study area.

Recommendation

1. There is high corporal punishment rate in the study area. Strong efforts should be exerted to up grade the knowledge and attitude of the community towards child corporal punishment like modeling, reasoning , reinforcement of positive behavior
2. The intersectional collaboration between Woreda and Kebele people representatives, education office, police, departments and the people religious leaders and elders should participate in both deer easing and abolition of child corporal punishment.

3. Strict and firm punishments should be employed to parents who repeatedly abuse their children.
4. Using local media like Fm and other, since now a day medias are the most influential technique force knowledge and attitude of society in wider scoop.

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Appendix
Jimma University
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QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is designed to collect data required for a research as a partial fulfillment of BA degree in psychology. It was a curtaimed that your response is vital for the success of this research proposal. Therefore you generally requested to respond the following questions.

I. Socio demographic characteristics

1. Age in year _____
2. Sex male female
3. Number of children: a. Born _____
 b. Adopted _____
4. Marital status : a. Married B. Divorced
 c. separated D. Widowed

5. Educational status: A. can read and write B. 1 – 4
 C. 5-8 D. 9-10 E. Diploma
 F. Degree
6. Occupation : A. Farmer B. Government Employee
 C. Daily laborer D. other
7. Income per month: A. < 100 birr B. 100 – 500 birr
 C. 501-1000 D. > 1000
8. Ethnicity: A. Oromo B. Gurage C. Amhara
 D. Other _____

II Practice of Corporal Punishment

9. Have you Ever punished your child physically?
 Yes No
10. If your answer for question number 10 is ‘yes’ how do you punish?
 A. Whipping with sticks and belts
 B. Pinching
 C. Exposure to burnt paper
 D. Temporary deprivation of food
 E. Spanking
 F. Other _____
11. When do you punish your child physically?
 A. When the child commits mistake
 B. As long as the child committed repeated mistakes
 C. If the child is not obedient for Advice
 D. Other _____
12. What is your reason to punish you child physically?

III. Knowledge on corporal punishment

13. Do you know what child abuse means?
 A. Yes B. No

14. If your answer is 'yes for question number 14 what does it mean?

15. Do you know that the Ethiopian gov't law protect the child from any form of physical punishment?

Yes No

16. If your answer for question number 16 is 'yes' where did you get the information?

A. Mass media

B. Kebele meeting

C. Other

17. Do you know methods of child disciplining other than corporal punishment?

Yes No

18. If your answer for question number 18 is 'yes; what are this methods?

IV. Attitude towards corporal punishment

Read the following questions and answer them by putting the sign of 'x' for your answer in the box provided.

1. Strongly Agree

3. Strongly disagree

2. Agree

4. Disagree

5. Difficult to decide

Items	1	2	3	4	5
Corporal punishment is the best way of disciplinary technique					
Corporal punishment has no any import on the community					
Corporal punishment is useful for children's emotional stability					
Punishment by the court is more useful than corporal punishment					
It is better to use counseling on children rather than corporal punishment					

