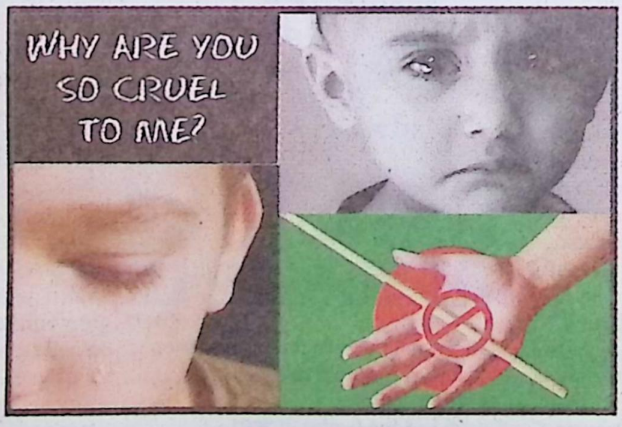
Corporal Punishment has Life-long Repercussions

The horrendous effects of DDT and asbestos took decades to discover – corporal punishment took longer

SIR FRANK PETERS

Corporal punishment is linked to cancer and a multitude of health maladies, massive school drop-outs, mood and anxiety disorders, alcohol and drug abuse, cardio-vascular disease, arthritis, obesity, wife-beatings, muggings and other social misbehaviour.

Research has also shown that its stress can cause inflammation to cells, tissues and blood vessels and that hitting or even just yelling at children can trigger a significant chain of biological changes that can damage their future health. In turn, this increases the likelihood of tumours, heart conditions and respiratory diseases like asthma and less fatal, but discomforting and irritating allergies, rashes and suchlike. And some people in their state of ignorance, arrogance – or both – still refer to it as discipline and condone it.



Yet another controversial 'wake-up world' report into the multifarious dangers of inflicting corporal punishment on children has been unleashed that unequivocally condemns the disgraceful ignorance-propelled inhuman practice.

It states, hitting any child can cause irreparable mental health problems and aggressive behaviour that hurts and scars them well into adulthood.

So what, you might ask yourself with 'I'm all right Jack' flippancy because you don't have any children, or your children are grown up, or are free of corporal punishment in both home and school (lucky them); has this got to do with me?

Corporal punishment of children needs to be a concern for all of us, individually and collectively, because it does concern all of us, whether we have children of our own or not, as does the spread of any disease in the community.

It might not affect us at this moment in time, but the hidden dangers of inflicting corporal punishment on children lurks menacingly in the shadows for decades giving no warnings when they will strike, in Dr. Jekyll & Mr Hyde fashion.

British psychologist Penelope Leach said in the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Journal: *"When a big child hits a small child in the playground, we call him a bully; five years later he punches a woman for her handbag and he is called a mugger. Later still, when he slugs a workmate who insults him, he is called a troublemaker, but when he becomes a father and hits his tiresome, disobedient or disrespectful child, we call him a disciplinarian."*

It is wrong... wrong... Wrong to hit a child. And never... never... Never is it *'for their own good'*. That idea is totally absurd and demonstrates the gross ignorance of the perpetrator, whether that is a teacher or parent. There is no right time to hit a child and Never any justification.

In the minds of many there is much confusion between discipline and punishment and that by hitting children is the best, quickest, and most effective way to bring them under control. Perpetrators rationalise that a light beating, a reminder smack now and again, provided it does not constitute cruel and unusual punishment, keeps the children in line. Nonsense! Ridiculous! Absurd!

If by hitting or smacking an adult kept them in line, I would be expecting Prime Minister Sheikh