

Not just law, we need social change to end corporal punishment



Laila Khondkar is an international development worker.

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CORPORAL punishment is defined as any punishment in which physical force is used with the intent to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light. Degrading and humiliating punishment also falls under this definition. Corporal punishment violates not just children’s right to freedom from all violence, but also their rights to health, development and education.

In November 2021, the World Health Organization (WHO) published “Corporal Punishment and Health,” where it called for the end of this practice around the world. The WHO fact sheet highlighted that a large body of research had established links between corporal punishment and a wide range of negative outcomes—both immediate and long-term. Some of those are “direct physical harm, sometimes resulting in severe damage, long-term disability or death; mental ill health, including behavioural and anxiety disorders, depression, hopelessness, low self-esteem, self-harm and suicide attempts, alcohol and drug dependency, hostility and emotional instability, which continue into adulthood.” Impaired cognitive and socio-emotional development; damage to education, including school dropout and lower academic and occupational success; increased antisocial behaviour;

settings, including schools and madrasas, in Bangladesh. The Ministry of Education also issued a circular and guidelines that prohibit corporal punishment in educational institutions. Yet, corporal punishment is still pervasive in schools and madrasas due to weak monitoring and our general acceptance of this

children with care and love, which will help the children in their learning and development. Teachers should apply positive discipline techniques to have their students listen to them.

Corporal punishment is preventable through multisectoral approaches,

New Zealand, Poland, and Romania.

Ending corporal punishment is a human rights imperative, and essential if the world is to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #16.2 to end all violence against children by 2030. Prohibition and elimination of corporal punishment is also a low-cost effective public health measure, as this contributes to prevention of domestic violence and mental illness, and supports education and developmental outcomes for children.

The ban on corporal punishment in educational settings should be implemented in the following ways: 1) All teachers, parents, community members and students should be made aware that corporal punishment is banned in educational settings; 2) Teachers’ code of conduct should clearly mention that they cannot use corporal punishment against students. Disciplinary actions should be taken against teachers who do so; 3) School inspection checklist should include compliance with corporal punishment ban; and 4) School management committees should discuss and deal with issues related to corporal punishment in their meetings. This issue should also be in the regular agenda of coordination meetings of education officers and head teachers at district and upazila levels to assess the situations and take actions accordingly.

To end corporal punishment in all settings in Bangladesh, these are what should be done: 1) A new law should be enacted prohibiting corporal punishment of children in all settings; 2) Law reform must be linked to comprehensive awareness-raising as well as developing capacity on positive, non-violent forms of parenting and teaching methods. Media can play an important role in changing social norms so that parents, teachers, and all adults treat children with respect and dignity; 3) Messages on positive discipline should be embedded into the training of all those who work with or for children and families, as well as in health, education, and social services.

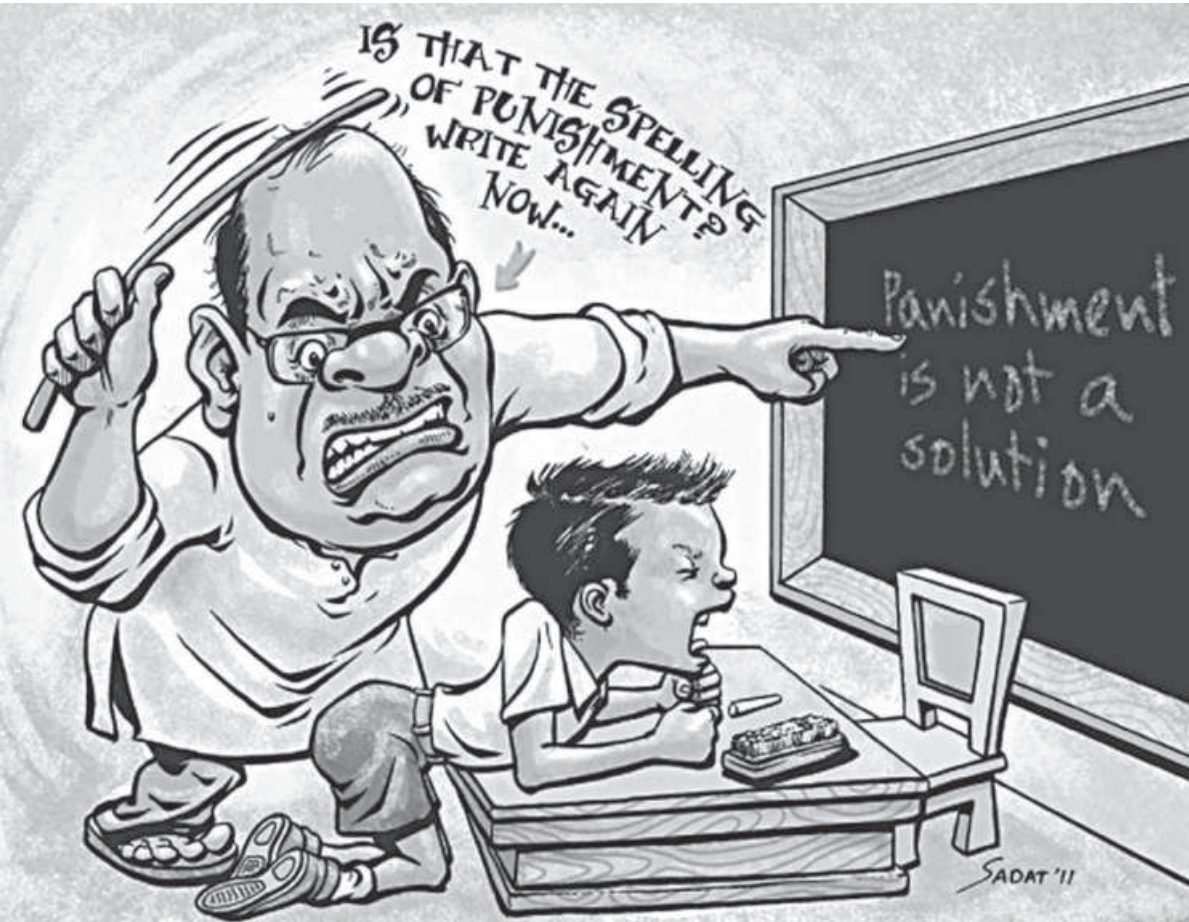


ILLUSTRATION: SADAT

which include law reform, changing harmful norms around child-rearing and disciplining, parent and caregiver support, etc. Research shows that law reform has led to reduced acceptance of corporal punishment among parents and other members of society. This has been the case in Sweden, Finland, Germany,

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practice. Not just in educational settings, but children are subjected to corporal punishment at home, in institutions and workplaces as well. According to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019, carried out by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Unicef, 89 percent of children (1-14 years) in Bangladesh experienced violent discipline in the past month of the survey. Meanwhile, 35 percent of parents or caregivers expressed that corporal punishment was necessary to discipline children.

Corporal punishment makes children feel sad, afraid, ashamed, and guilty. When children are punished by parents, caregivers and teachers—people whom they love and trust the most—they learn to accept violence in personal relationships, too, and may become perpetrators or victims of violence later in adulthood.

In Bangladesh, people have ample excuses for corporal punishment. For example, some say many parents are raising their children in challenging conditions, and teachers are often under stress from overcrowding and lack of resources, so, they often use corporal punishment. We never justify hitting an adult even when we are frustrated. Why should that be acceptable in the case of children? In many homes and institutions, adults may be facing difficulties, but taking their frustration out on children by hitting and humiliating them can never be acceptable.

Despite popular belief, corporal punishment is ineffective as a technique to teach and discipline children. When faced with punishment, children may comply with the instructions given by their parents or teachers in the short term, without understanding why something should be done or avoided. Instead of punishment, parents should give age-appropriate guidance to their

increased aggression in children; adult perpetration of violent, antisocial and criminal behaviour; indirect physical harm, including developing cancer, alcohol-related problems, migraine, cardiovascular disease, arthritis and obesity that continue into adulthood; and damaged family relationships are also some of the outcomes, according to WHO.

Even though we know that corporal punishment is so harmful for children, it still remains in practice around the world. Only 63 countries have enacted laws banning corporal punishment of children in all settings: homes, schools, workplaces, institutions, alternative care arrangements, etc. A whopping 87 percent of the world’s children are not protected from corporal punishment by law; this includes Bangladeshi children, too.

Today, January 13, marks the 11th anniversary of the High Court banning corporal punishment in educational

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Ref:-56(6)/NINS&H/Tender Document/2021-22/1389

Invitation for Tender (OTM)

01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and family Welfare		
02	Agency	Director General of Health Service		
03	Procuring Entity Name	Director, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital		
04	Procuring Entity Code	1270208111110		
05	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka-1207		
06	Invitation for	Supply of MSR Instrument		
07	Invitation Reference No	56 (6)/NINS&H/Tender Document/2021-22/1389		
08	Date	09/01/2022		
KEY INFORMATION				
09	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget & Source of Fund	Revenue Budget (GoB)		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
11	Office Code	1270208111110		
12	Office Name	National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital		
13	Tender Package No	NINS&H/MSR GR-09		
14	Tender Package Name	MSR Instrument		
15	Tender Publication Date	13/01/2022		
16	Tender Last Selling Date	12/02/2022 (Office hour)		
17	Tender Closing Date & Time	13/02/2022, Time:12:00 pm		
18	Tender Opening Date & Time	13/02/2022, Time:12:15 pm		
19	Name & Address of the office	Selling Tender Document		
		Accounts section, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital. ShereBangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
	Receiving Tender document	1) Room No-311, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital. ShereBangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 2) Emergency Department, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital. ShereBangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
	Opening tender document	Room No-311, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital. ShereBangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
20	Place/Date /Time of Pre-Tender meeting	Room No-311, National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital. Shere Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207; Date 23-01-2022 at 11.00 am		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21	Eligibility of Tenderer	Tenderer shall have the following legal documents /capacity to enter into the contract- a) Valid up-to date Trade License b) TIN Certificate c) VAT Registration Certificate d) Bank Solvency Certificate, e) other details conditions including in the schedule.		
22	Brief Description of Goods	Supply of MSR Instrument 1. General, 2. Cath Lab		
23	Price of Tender Document	Lot. 1- TK. 5,000.00, Lot. 2- TK. 5,000.00		
24	Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (TK)
	01	MSR Instrument (General)	NINS & H	2.5 % of offered price
	02	MSR Instrument (Cath Lab)		45 days after Work Order.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
25	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Prof. Dr. Quazi Deen Mohammad.		
26	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Director		
27	Address of Official Inviting Tender	National Institute of Neuro-Sciences & Hospital ShereBangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
28	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel : +88-02-48120079; Fax: +88-02-48120568, E-mail: nins@hospi.dghs.gov.bd		
29	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatever.			

Note: (1) If the date of selling ,receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.
(2) The bill will be paid on receipt of allotment.

(Prof. Dr. Quazi Deen Mohammad)
Director
National Institute of Neuro-Sciences and Hospital
Shere Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

GD- 78

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Cube's six
6 More than sufficient
11 Superior to
12 Rid of rind
13 Jeans material
14 Expansive
15 Impertinent
17 Questionable
18 Pro votes
20 Skin woe
22 Tour carrier
23 Reaches by air
26 Kind of metabolism
28 Fiery crime
29 Lively, in music
31 Suffering
32 Savvy about
33 Sacred

34 Heredity unit
36 Wilson of "Rushmore"
38 Stockpile
40 Modify
43 Colorful flower
44 Dome home
45 School paper
46 Peevish

DOWN

1 Rage
2 Presidential nickname
3 Church fixtures
4 Contents of Pandora's box
5 Big rig
6 LAPD issuance
7 Sailor
8 Paid players

9 Book part
10 Vortex
16 Bud
18 "Fernando" group
19 China's currency
21 "See ya!"
23 Level
24 Turnpike cost
25 Just
27 Memory loss
30 Overly
33 Bushy boundary
34 Airport area
35 Outback birds
37 "Hold on!"
39 Bond, for one
41 Lobster trap
42 Gift from Santa

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dspinion@gmail.com.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

B	A	S	H		H	O	T	P	A	D
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