

Tuesday English News Report

*Hong Kong child rights group calls for total ban on **corporal punishment***

Broadcast Date: 5th May

More than half of the children in a four-month study have corporal punishment inflicted on them by their parents, a children's rights group has **revealed**.

The survey, by Against Child **Abuse**, interviewed 1,562 children aged from six to 13. It found 847, or 54 per cent, of the children had experienced corporal punishment by their parents.

Hong Kong introduced a law in 1991 banning corporal punishment in schools. The **legislation** does not include homes.

Dr Jessica Ho Oi-chu, director of Against Child Abuse, urged the government to bring in a total ban on corporal punishment.

Conducted between November and February, the study found 75 per cent of the children were hit with hands, and objects such as **hangers** or rulers were also used.

Almost 70 per cent of the children said they received punishment occasionally, while 5 per cent were punished daily.

Children were punished due to unsatisfactory academic performance, daily habits such as playing computer games, and refusal to **obey** parents.

Ms Li, a mother of two who came to Hong Kong from the mainland in 2012, used to **spank** her child at least once a month. She said she often got **irritated** by her eldest daughter who did not listen to her and did her homework slowly.

"I always **scolded** her and beat her with hangers ... she never held my hand when going out. It was always either she or I at the back," Li said.

The study, in which 608 parents were also polled, found more than half understood that corporal punishment worsened parent-child relationships. But the parents were not aware of a proper way to teach children.

Li said she became less angry with her daughter after visiting a child protection home as part of a scheme in which volunteers shared positive teaching methods. "I now encourage and **praise** her more when she has homework problems ... she is more willing to hold my hand," Li said.



1. What do you think?

2. Vocabulary

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below using words from the box.

corporal punishment	revealed	abuse	legislation
hangers	obey	spank	irritated
scolded	praise		

1. We need _____ (laws). If we didn't have any, many bad things would happen.
2. When the teacher asks you to do something, you should _____ him or her.
3. Spiderman took off his mask and _____ his face.
4. Students really like it when teachers _____ them.
5. When I was at school _____ was legal. That meant teachers could hit us with their hands and also with special sticks called canes.
6. The child felt deeply unhappy because her parents always _____ her.
7. You find these in wardrobes. _____.
8. Many parents _____ (hit) their children.
9. I got very _____ because the person sitting behind me kept talking really loudly on their mobile phone.
10. The little boy suffered many different types of _____ from his parents. They often hit him and also called him bad words. Sometimes they didn't feed him and a few times they even locked him in a cupboard for long periods of time.

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