

# THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT – PREVALENCE AND ATTITUDINAL RESEARCH IN EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Global Initiative to  
**End All Corporal Punishment  
of Children**

Summaries prepared by the Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children ([www.endcorporalpunishment.org](http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org)), March 2008

*Note: No prevalence research identified for Brunei Darussalam, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu*

## AUSTRALIA

A survey of parents in Queensland, conducted by the Parenting and Family Support Centre, University of Queensland, and reported in 2007, found that 71% smacked their children occasionally. When asked how likely parents were to use smacking as a punishment, 43% said they were likely or very likely to give a single smack with their hand; 10% said they were likely or very likely to spank their child more than once with their hand or another object.

(Reported in *Herald Sun*, 19 May 2007)

Telephone interviews with a representative sample of 720 adults aged 18+ were carried out in 2006 by Quantum Market Research on behalf of the Australian Childhood Foundation and the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse at Monash University. The research found that 45% of respondents believed it was reasonable to leave a mark on a child as a result of physical punishment (representing a decrease from the 55% found in similar research in 2002). One in 10 believed that it was appropriate to use implements such as canes, sticks, belts, or slippers to punish a child (representing an increase in support for the use of implements compared with the 4% figure found in the 2002 research); one in seven (14%) supported the use of a wooden spoon. Two out of five (41%) believed that smacking a child is effective in shaping his or her behaviour, while one in ten believed that smacking a teenager is an effective way of discipline. When presented with the statement that it is sometimes necessary to smack a naughty child, 69% agreed, representing a decline in support for corporal punishment when compared with similar research in 2002 (75%).

(Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. & Goddard, C., 2006, *Crossing the Line: Making the case for changing Australian laws about the physical punishment of children*, Ringwood, Victoria, Australia: Australian Childhood Foundation)

In a large scale survey of the health and wellbeing of children, conducted in 1993 by the Western Australian Institute for Child Health Research, about 30% of parents were reported as smacking their children aged 4-11 years.

(Reported in Save the Children, 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific – Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children*, Save the Children Sweden)

A survey of 1,200 parents commissioned by the National Child Protection Council, reported in 1995, found that 80% thought it unharmed to hit a child, with 20% believing it acceptable to use an implement such as a ruler, leather strap or wooden spoon; 50% of respondents believed it is every parent's right to discipline children in any way they see fit.

(Reported in "Editorial: Australia", *Times Educational Supplement*, 15 September 1995)

## CAMBODIA

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Cambodia involved 504 children (250 boys, 254 girls) from urban, rural and remote areas, and 275 adults (122 men, 153 women). Methods used included research diaries, body maps, attitude survey, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Cambodia included being hit with a variety of implements, including a stick, cane, "whip" made of electric cable, belt, whip, chain; the use of sharp implements (knife) and sharp-edged domestic items (brooms, shoes), kicking, punching, pinching, pulling, and twisting joints. Of those children who mentioned body parts where they were hit, 39.8% reported being hit on the head and neck, 82.2% on the limbs, 80.7% on the back, 33.1% buttocks, 2.3% chest and 3.3% stomach. Over 80% of children reported being punished in the home. Nearly all adults (96%) attested that they felt unhappy after they had been punished as children. When asked what they did in response to punishment, most said that they stood still and endured it (61% boys, 76% girls); 1.8% of boys and no girls said they "fight back"; some escape the punishment (27% boys, 23% girls); some beg not to be punished (16% boys, 4% girls).

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

Large-scale research into children's attitudes towards violence has been undertaken by Tearfund, a relief and development NGO working in partnership with Christian agencies and churches. The first stage of the research involved focus groups of boys and girls aged 11-13 from an urban slum community, a rural community and a provincial town community, and found that most children believed that children should be beaten by teachers if they are disobedient or if they "made a mistake", with few feeling that beating was inappropriate in some cases. Children also felt that parents should beat children if they "made a mistake". The second stage, supported by the Ministry of Education, comprised a written questionnaire survey of 1,314 children aged 12-15. Half of the boys (50.5%) and over a third of the girls (36.4%) reported having been beaten by their parents; 82.4% of girls and 81.1% of boys reported witnessing other children being beaten by their parents. Nearly one in four girls (24.1%) and over one in three boys (34.7%) reported having been beaten by their teacher in school.

(Miles, G. & Varin, S., 2005, "Stop Violence Against Us!" *A preliminary national research study into the prevalence and perceptions of Cambodian children to violence against children in Cambodia, Summary report*, Tearfund)

In a survey by the Children and Young People Movement for Child Rights reported in 2005, of more than 5,000 12-18 year old children at primary and junior high schools in 16 of the 24 provinces and municipalities, 90% of respondents said that their teachers would punish them if they did something wrong, and for 20% of these the punishment would be beating, more commonly for 12-14 year olds than for 15-18 year olds.

(Children and Young People Movement for Child Rights/Child Rights Foundation, 2004, *Children's Report: Children's Views on Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in Cambodia 2000-2004*)

A comparative study of children across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that of 500 school children aged 9-17 years, 44% reported having been beaten by their parents.

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

A 1999 study by the Psychology Department at the University of Phnom Penh of 400 children aged 10-12 from randomly selected schools found that 58% had been beaten.

(Cited in Miles, G., 2003, "Exploring the attitude of Cambodian Children to violence including sexual abuse and trafficking", unpublished paper)

The Household Survey on Domestic Violence in Cambodia for the Ministry of Women's Affairs in 1996 involved interviews with 2,764 households in six provinces. The majority (67.5%) believed they should hit their children as a disciplinary measure (women 71.6%, men 57.3%).

(Nelson, E. & Zimmerman, C., 1996, *Household Survey on Domestic Violence in Cambodia*, Ministry of Women's Affairs and Project Against Domestic Violence with the International Research Centre, Canada, cited in Miles, G., 2003, "Exploring the attitude of Cambodian Children to violence including sexual abuse and trafficking", unpublished paper)

## CHINA

In a pilot questionnaire survey in 2004 of 528 students from a college and a technical secondary school in Hebie province, 57.6% of students reported having received corporal punishment on at least one occasion. A similar number (53.4%) reported receiving "non-contact" corporal punishment by teachers when aged below 16 years, including running, standing, kneeling etc; 16.1% reported hitting/kicking/pushing very hard with open hands or another part of the body; 10.2% reported beating with an object; and 0.2% reported being locked in a cupboard or tied with a rope. No significant correlation was found between corporal punishment and residence (rural or non-rural), parental education or number of children in the family.

(Jing-qi, C., Chun-mei, W., Dunne, M.P., Yu-xia, M., Bo, C. Yi-huai, L. & Ya-jie, 2006, "A retrospective survey of childhood corporal punishment by school teachers in students", *Chinese Journal of Pediatrics*, vol. 44 (1))

A comparative study of 10,073 children aged 9-17 years across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that 14% of those surveyed in China reported having been beaten by their parents. The reason for children finding it difficult to talk to teachers was given by 4% of the children as because the teachers "beat them".

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

A questionnaire survey on attitudes to physical punishment of 331 child health professionals in Eastern China, found that 97% believed corporal punishment to be widely used by Chinese parents. 76% stated that they themselves generally disapproved of physical punishment, with younger respondents significantly more likely to disapprove than older respondents. 86% regarded physical punishment to be equally appropriate for girls and boys and 3% approved of the use of an implement. However, when asked specific questions about the age at which physical punishment was acceptable, only 43% indicated that it was unacceptable at any age. Physical punishment was regarded as more acceptable for 4-13 year-olds than children of other ages.

(Hesketh, T., Hong, Z. S. & Lynch, M. A., 2000, "Child abuse in China: the views and experiences of child health professionals", *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.24, no.6, pp.867-872)

Research interviews with 57 Tibetan children conducted by a team of psychologists and lawyers in 1999 found that corporal punishment was routinely employed in primary schools in Tibet, and that in administering the punishment teachers beat children with sticks, bamboo staffs, whips, wires, brooms and belts, and children were made to endure uncomfortable physical positions.

(International Committee of Lawyers for Tibet, 2001, *A Generation in Peril: The Lives of Children Under Chinese Rule*, reported in Tibet Justice Center, 2005, *Violence, discrimination and neglect towards Tibetan children*, NGO Alternative report to the CRC)

A questionnaire survey in 1998 of 483 school children in grades 4-6 studied personal opinions on corporal punishment and experience of violence by family members, school teachers or peers in the last year. Rates of corporal punishment by teachers were 51.1%, while rates of violence in the family were 70.6%.

(Kim, D-H., Kim, K-I. & Park, Y-C., 2000, "Children's experience of violence in China and Korea: A transcultural study", *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.24, no.9, pp.1163-1173)

Interviews with 50 refugee Tibetan children who had previously attended schools in Tibet found that corporal punishment was common and brutal. Almost half (47%) of those interviewed who had visited a primary school said they had experienced degrading, humiliating or brutal forms of corporal punishment. It was reported as being less common in *mangstug* schools (locally sponsored primary schools), which employ mainly Tibetan teachers, than in *zhungtsug* schools (Government sponsored primary schools), which rely more on Chinese teachers. The children also reported that Tibetan students were punished more harshly than Chinese students.

(Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, 1997, *The Next Generation – The state of education in Tibet today*, available at [www.tibet.com/Humanrights/EduToday/intro.html](http://www.tibet.com/Humanrights/EduToday/intro.html))

## FIJI

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Fiji involved 536 children (244 boys, 292 girls) aged 10-17 years from urban, semi-urban and rural areas, and 101 adults (49 men and 52 women, teachers in the schools and members of four community settlements in the Central Division). The research team led 51 sessions with the children, boys and girls separately, and two age groups – 10-13 years and 14-17 years. Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Most punishment experienced by children were direct assaults, more frequently for younger children, including being beaten, hit, slapped or lashed, smacked, whacked, given a hiding, spanked, punched, "donged" (on the head) and pinched. Nine out of ten boys aged 10-13 years and almost eight out of ten aged 14-17 years reported the use of physical punishments; 71% of girls in both age groups reported this. More punishment was administered by immediate family members (parents 48%) than by teachers (45%); for all girls and younger boys, most punishments were experienced in the home; for older boys the majority of punishment happened at school. Reasons for the punishment included disobedience, unsatisfactory academic performance and misbehaviour. In response to the statement "After I punish a child I feel unhappy", 38% of adults disagreed, 57% agreed, and 5% had no opinion.

(Save the Children, 2006, *The Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children in Fiji: A research report*, Suva, Save the Children Fiji. See also Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific*, 2005, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

Interviews with parents and teachers conducted for Pacific Children's Program by a team from the University of South Pacific found that corporal punishment of children is administered by parents,

guardians and elders and takes many forms, including beating or using a belt or rod; hitting and punching the head with the hand or an object; inserting fingers down a child's mouth until the child gags; tying a child up in a sack and hanging from a tree; and whipping with a stick or rope.

(Vakoati, P. & Finekaso, G., 2002, *Qualitative Study on Child Protection Practices: Fiji Report*, University of South Pacific, Report prepared for International Development Support Services, Pacific Children's Program)

A study by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre found that 80% of respondents had witnessed someone being beaten in the home, indicating a general acceptance of violence as a form of punishment. 57% of those described by respondents as victims of violence in the home were daughters and sons; 19.5% of those most frequently beaten were children; 81.2% of male respondents and 75.8% of female respondents reported being hit by their parents.

(FWCC, 2001, *The incidence, prevalence and nature of domestic violence and sexual assault in Fiji: a research project of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre*, Suva, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre. Cited in Save the Children, 2006, *The Physical and Emotional Punishment of Children in Fiji: A research report*, Suva, Save the Children Fiji)

## INDONESIA

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Indonesia involved 813 children from urban, rural and remote areas, and 16 adults. Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Indonesia included being hit with implements, kicking, slapping, ear twisting, hair pulling, pinching, throwing object. Of those who were hit, 32.4% were hit with an implement, 23.6% slapped with the hand, 23.6% punched with the fist, and 20.4% kicked. Of those children who mentioned body parts where they were hit, 73% reported being hit on the head and neck, 75% on the limbs, 10% on the back, 15% chest and 15% stomach.

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific*, 2005, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

Save the Children UK carried out research in schools in North Maluku, surveying 541 children in two sub districts as part of a project developing non violent forms of classroom management. Children completed survey forms as follow up to classroom discussions on discipline. Nearly one quarter of the children reported having been hit by the teacher on their legs, hands, ears, cheeks and buttocks, once or more than once, the teachers using their hands, or a stick, ruler or bamboo swathe.

(Save the Children UK, Indonesia, 2004, "Violence in schools: report on a survey conducted by the Save the Children Education Programme in North Maluku", unpublished, cited in Save the Children, 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific – Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific*, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children, Save the Children Sweden)

A comparative study of 10,073 children aged 9-17 years across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that 34% of those surveyed in Indonesia reported having been beaten by their parents, and about 50% said that they found it less easy to talk to their teachers because teachers scream at them or beat them.

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

## JAPAN

A retrospective survey was conducted in 1998 on the socialisation of pre-school and school-age children (aged 3-12 years), and included an examination of children's experiences of and opinions about being praised or scolded. Overall, it was found that more than 80% of children had been hit by their parents, with other punishments reported including making children stay outside, reprimanding them, restricting their activities and ignoring them.

(Benesse Educational Research Centre, 1999, *Kosodate seikatsu kihon chosa houkokusholl Kenkyu shoho*, vol. 19, Tokyo: Benesse Corporation, reported in Save the Children, 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific – Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children*, Save the Children Sweden)

In a survey by the All Japan Parents and Teachers Association in 1996, only 25.6% of respondents stated that corporal punishment should never be administered by a teacher.

(Goodman, 2003, cited in Save the Children, 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific*, Save the Children Sweden)

According to Ministry of Education reports, schools using and suspected of using corporal punishment during the years 1990 to 1995 numbered from 600 to 850 per year, about 2% of all public schools. The number of cases of corporal punishment reported during the period was 700 to 1,000 per year, with 30% to 45% of teachers responsible receiving legal sanctions. The figures show an increase in the use of corporal punishment over the period.

(Kobayashi, N., Tanimura, M. & Shimauchi, Y., 1997, "Corporal punishment in the schools and homes of Japan", *IPA Journal (INCH)*, vol.8, no.3 Pre-congress workshops: Prevention of childhood injuries: intentional and unintentional – 9th Asian Congress of Paediatrics, Hong Kong, 22-23 March 1997)

Of the 435 cases of child abuse encountered at paediatric departments of general and children's hospitals registered with the Department of Child Ecology, National Children's Medical Research Center, and the National Children's Hospital from 1986 to 1995, the rationale of "discipline and education" or the child's misbehaviour was given in 36.3% of cases.

(Kobayashi, N., Tanimura, M. & Shimauchi, Y., 1997, "Corporal punishment in the schools and homes of Japan", *IPA Journal (INCH)*, vol.8, no.3 Pre-congress workshops: Prevention of childhood injuries: intentional and unintentional – 9th Asian Congress of Paediatrics, Hong Kong, 22-23 March 1997)

Research into teachers' opinions about corporal punishment was reported in a news article in 1987. A questionnaire survey administered by the Kobe Municipal Teachers Union to all its members found that around 60% of junior high school teachers felt corporal punishment was necessary – 7% said they believed corporal punishment was necessary under present conditions, 59% said they had felt at times that it was needed, and 32% disapproved of corporal punishment. In elementary schools, 2% of teachers supported corporal punishment, 47% said it was sometimes necessary, and 49% were against it.

("Many Japanese teachers favor corporal punishment", *Nichi Bei Times*, San Francisco, USA, 21 November 1987)

A retrospective survey of 600 mothers of 13-year-old children, carried out by the Educational Research Center, Benesse Corporation, found that 56% had received corporal punishment once or more since primary school, with the number of children increasing with age and more commonly for boys than girls. Nearly half the children felt the punishment had been severe or too severe. 50% of mothers accepted or tolerated the punishment because their child had misbehaved; 16% denied their child had misbehaved; and only 20% objected to the teacher's use of corporal punishment. 14% of

mothers felt that punishment was an effective discipline tool; 68% approved of occasional punishment; 17% disapproved of corporal punishment on any occasion.

(Fukaya, K., 1986, *Corporal punishment monograph: Primary school children now*, Educational Research Center, Fukutake Shoten, Benesse Corp. Cited in Kobayashi, N., Tanimura, M. & Shimauchi, Y., 1997, "Corporal punishment in the schools and homes of Japan", *IPA Journal (INCH)*, vol.8, no.3 Pre-congress workshops: Prevention of childhood injuries: intentional and unintentional – 9th Asian Congress of Paediatrics, Hong Kong, 22-23 March 1997)

## **LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

In a study reported in 2003, 30% of detained children reported experiencing physical or mental punishment, including beating, crawling, sitting in the sun and withholding meals.

(Sandvik-Nylund, 2003, *Regional Assessment: Violence against children in East Asia and the Pacific region*, Bangkok: UNICEF. Cited in Nogami, N., 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific - Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

## **MALAYSIA**

In 2005, the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia conducted an online poll on school corporal punishment. Of the 64 respondents to the question "Is caning students in schools a violation of human rights?" 31.3% agreed, 57.8% disagreed, and 10.9% were unsure.

[\(www.suhakam.org.my/en/\)](http://www.suhakam.org.my/en/)

In 2003, research into human rights awareness among secondary school teachers, students and administrators conducted by researchers from local universities assigned by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) found the cane being used regularly. In the survey of 5,754 students, 52% agreed that caning commonly happened in their schools, more often in rural schools than urban schools; around 80% of cases occurred at technical schools; 79.5% of teachers and 71.8% of administrators agreed that persistent offenders should be caned.

(Reported in "Spare the rod?", *New Straits Times*, Kuala Lumpur, 21 March 2004)

A comparative study of 10,073 children aged 9-17 years across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that 25% of those surveyed in Malaysia reported having been beaten by their parents. The reason for children finding it difficult to talk to teachers was given by 2% of the children as because the teachers "beat them".

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

## **MONGOLIA**

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Mongolia involved 607 children from urban, semi-urban and rural areas, and 40 adults. Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Mongolia included slapping, hitting with implements, forcing to the ground, bearing with a rubber baton, pinching, grabbing, pulling hair, scratching. Children in institutions in Mongolia mentioned the following punishments: adults stomping on their stomachs, being forced to the ground, having to stand in the hot sun, being hit with a rubber baton. The prevalence of punishment was given as direct assault (hitting) for children aged 10-13 years

45.6%, other direct assault 5%, indirect assault 9%, deliberate neglect 1.2, verbal attack 33.8%. Of those from urban areas who were hit, 70.4% were hit with an implement, 21.4% were slapped with the hand, 8.2% kicked. The study included 55 children in institutions, with 25% reporting punishments such as being beaten with a rubber truncheon and having to maintain uncomfortable positions for long periods of time. Reasons for punishment were given mainly as failure of behaviour (30% home, 22% school) and failure of obedience (60% home, 46% school).

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

In a study reported in 2003, a survey found that 89% of parents and 74% of children agreed that violence is practised against children in families.

(Sandvik-Nylund, 2003, *Regional Assessment: Violence against children in East Asia and the Pacific region*, Bangkok: UNICEF. Cited in Nogami, N., 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific - Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

A comparative study of 10,073 children aged 9-17 years across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that 7% of those surveyed in Mongolia reported having been beaten by their parents. The reason for children finding it difficult to talk to teachers was given by 9% of the children as because the teachers “beat them”.

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

## MYANMAR

In a 2002 study by UNICEF, 17% of children surveyed in four peri-urban townships said they were unhappy at school because teachers beat them. The study involved face-to-face interviews and focus group discussions, and included both primary and secondary schools and children currently out-of-school.

(Reported by UNICEF, September 2003)

A comparative study of 10,073 children aged 9-17 years across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that 40% of those surveyed in Myanmar reported having been beaten by their parents. The reason for children finding it difficult to talk to teachers was given by 12% of the children as because the teachers “beat them”.

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

## NEW ZEALAND

A poll of more than 3,000 respondents by *The New Zealand Herald* found that almost 70% supported the return of caning and strapping in schools.

(Reported in *Radio New Zealand News*, 1 August 2007)

As part of the Government's *Strategies with Kids: Information for Parents* public education programme, designed to promote alternatives to corporal punishment, the Ministry of Social Development commissioned telephone interviews with 612 parents and 539 caregivers of children up to 5 years of age nationwide in 2004. Overall, 51% of parents and 21% of caregivers reported using physical discipline, with this being more likely the lower the level of education and higher the number of children (for parents) and with decreasing household income and increasing age (for caregivers).

The most common form was smacking on the bottom (45% parents, 32% caregivers). 25% of parents using physical discipline were not interested in receiving information on parenting.

(Gravitas Research and Strategy Ltd, for the Ministry of Social Development, 2004, *Strategies with Kids – Information for Parents (SKIP) Strategy Development Research: Parent and Care-giver Survey Report*, draft report)

In 2001, a telephone survey of 1,000 adults commissioned by the Ministry of Justice and carried out by the National Research Bureau Ltd (NRB) revealed that 80% of parents believed smacking with an open hand should be legally permissible, but 85% were against the use of a wooden spoon or belt, and 98% believed hits to the head and neck area should not be allowed. Physical punishment that causes marking, bruising or injury to a child was not considered acceptable by almost 95% of respondents. When asked about the age of children it should be acceptable to physically punish, 62% believed it acceptable to punish those aged 2-5 years (64% women, 60% men), over half (52%) believed it acceptable for children aged 6-10 years (67% women, 76% men), 43% felt it acceptable for children aged 11-14 years (35% women, 51% men), and 16% for 15-17 year olds (14% women, 18% men). Almost one in four (23%) thought it was acceptable to physically discipline children below the age of 2 years (26% women, 19% men).

(Carswell, S., 2001, *Survey on public attitudes towards the physical discipline of children*, Wellington, NZ: Ministry of Justice)

The Christchurch Health and Development Study, a longitudinal study of a birth cohort of 1,265 children born in 1977, included the collection of data from 18 year olds of their recall of punishment before the age of 16 years. Out of 1,025 responses, nine out of ten young people reported having received punishment at the hands of their parents: 77.7% said both parents seldom used physical punishment, 7.6% said at least one parent used physical punishment regularly, 2% said that at least one parent used physical punishment too often and too severely, and 1.9% said at least one parent treated them in a harsh and abusive way. One in ten (10.8%) said they had never been physically punished by their parents. In terms of specific forms of punishment, 56.4% reported regular frequent smacking, 30.8% regular hitting around head or body with fists, 29.5% regular hitting with a cane, strap or similar object, and 23.1% receiving a regular severe beating. Over a third (35.9%) reported being injured as a result of physical punishment.

(Fergusson, D.M. & Linskey, M.T., 1997, "Physical punishment/maltreatment during childhood and adjustment in young adulthood", *Child abuse and neglect*, vol. 21, no. 7, pp.617-630)

In 1993, The Listener/Heylen Monitor polled 1,000 home occupiers aged 15 and over on the acceptability of corporal punishment, and found that 49% supported corporal punishment for girls, 54% for boys. This was reported as representing a significant decline in support of physical punishment since its abolition in schools in 1990.

(*Physical Punishment in the Home in New Zealand*, 1993, available from the Office of the Commissioner for Children)

## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

A comparative study of 10,073 children aged 9-17 years across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that 29% of those surveyed in Papua New Guinea reported having been beaten by their parents. The reason for children finding it difficult to talk to teachers was given by 39% of the children as because the teachers "beat them".

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

## PHILIPPINES

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in the Philippines involved 139 children (69 boys, 70 girls) from urban areas and 78 adults (34 men and 44 women). Methods used included research diaries, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Philippines included hitting, punishing, spanking, whipping, use of implements, hair pulling, ear twisting, and pinching.

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

As part of the World Studies of Abuse in the Family Environment (WorldSAFE) cross-national project, researchers looked at incidence rates for corporal punishment as self-reported by mothers covering the period of the previous 6 months. In the Philippines, “severe physical punishment” was reported as follows: hitting the child with an object not on the buttocks 21%, kicking 6%, beating 3%, threatening with a knife or gun 1%, choking 1%. “Moderate physical punishment” was reported as: spanked buttocks with hand 75%, pinching 60%, hit with object on buttocks 51%, twisted ear 31%, pulled hair 23%, slapped face or head 21%, shook child 20%, hit with knuckles 8%, forced to kneel/stand in uncomfortable position 4%, put hot pepper in mouth 1%.

(Reported in Krug, E. G. et al., eds, 2002, *World report on violence and health*, Geneva: World Health Organization)

Research into children’s experiences of child abuse found that the most abusive acts were those inflicted by parents in the name of discipline and included spanking, being beaten up or mauled (including when a parent uses a wooden stick, belt, bat or broom, incessant beatings, slaps on the face, and being burned with a flat iron), being scolded or punished when the child did nothing wrong, humiliating the child in public, and shouting and cursing at the child.

(De la Cruz, T. et al., 2001, *Trust and power: Child abuse in the eyes of the child and the parent*, Manila: UP-CIDS Psychosocial Trauma and Human Rights Program, cited in International Save the Children Alliance, 2004, *How to research the physical and emotional punishment of children: Resource handbook*, Thailand: International Save the Children Alliance, Southeast, East Asia and Pacific Region)

In another study, parents questioned about their behaviour towards their children revealed that two thirds of them reported whipping their children, and 45% confirmed that they had hit, kicked or beaten them.

(Hahm, H. & Guterman, N., 2001, “The emerging problem of physical child abuse in South Korea”, *Child Maltreatment*, vol.6, pp.169-179, cited in Krug, E. G. et al., eds, 2002, *World report on violence and health*, Geneva: World Health Organization)

A comparative study of 10,073 children aged 9-17 years across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that 24% of those surveyed in the Philippines reported having been beaten by their parents.

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

In 1994, the incidence of corporal punishment by teachers among elementary students during a one-year period was found to be 57.6%.

(Kim, H. S. & Song, I. H., 1994, *The battered children*, Seoul: Adolescent Counseling Centre, cited in Kim, D-H., Kim, K-I. & Park, Y-C., 2000, “Children’s experience of violence in China and Korea: A transcultural study, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.24, no.9)

In a 1994 questionnaire survey on physical punishment completed by 1,045 children from grades 4-6 in schools in Seoul found that 76.7% reported receiving physical punishment by a family member during the last year (67.3% “light” corporal punishment, 9.4% “severe”), more commonly for boys and younger children. Mothers were the punishers in 78.8% of cases, fathers 55.1%, and older siblings 30.3%.

(Park, M. Y., 1996, “Facts about child maltreatment and preventive measures”, *Journal of Children and Adolescent Studies*, vol.3, no.1, pp.107-130, cited in Doe, S. J., 2000, “Cultural factors in child maltreatment and domestic violence in Korea”, *Children and Youth Services Review*, vol.22, nos.3/4, pp.231-236)

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Government research into corporal punishment at middle and high schools showed a decline in prevalence, with 6% experiencing it in 2006 compared with 40% in a similar survey by the Korean Teachers and Education Workers’ Union in 2000. The research surveyed 1,160 students at 40 schools, 533 parents and 262 teachers. When asked if teachers listened to the student’s side of the story before giving the punishment, 89% of teachers said “yes” while 88% of students and 92% of parents answered “no”. Corporal punishment is given when students do not obey school rules, e.g. not finishing homework or being late or absent from class.

(Reported in *The Korea Herald*, 26 January 2007)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Republic of Korea involved 152 children (69 boys, 83 girls) from urban areas and 175 adults (32 men and 143 women). Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in Republic of Korea included slapping, whipping, beaten with a broomstick, punching, kicking, pinching, ear pulling. In terms of the settings in which children experienced punishment, the research found that in the home 97.4% of children experienced physical punishment, 3% emotional punishment, while in school 93.6% experienced physical punishment and 6% emotional. Punishment in the home comprised 61% of all punishments, followed by school, then after-school learning centres, playgrounds, and other locations (street, friends’ houses, welfare centres). Punishment is most commonly inflicted by parents (45%), teachers (24%) and other relatives (20%). In response to the statement “After I punish a child I feel unhappy”, 16.6% of adults disagreed, 65.1% agreed, and 18.3% had no opinion.

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific, 2005*, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

In a nationwide survey of 3,228 students conducted by the Korean Federation of Teachers Association in April 2003, 70% said that corporal punishment given by their teachers was fair but that it should be limited to severe cases of insubordination. Students said teachers should not abuse the right to punish students.

(Reported in Hae-noon, K., 2003, “Students cite slip in respect for teachers”, *Joong Ang Daily*, Seoul, 14 May 2003)

A questionnaire survey of 489 children in grades 4-6 in Korea in autumn 1998 looked at personal opinion on corporal punishment and experience of violence by family members, school teachers or peers in the last year. The rate of corporal punishment by teachers was 62%, while the rate of violence in the family was 68.9%.

(Kim, D-H., Kim, K-I. & Park, Y-C., 2000, "Children's experience of violence in China and Korea: A transcultural study", *Child Abuse & Neglect*, vol.24, no.9, pp.1163-1173)

In a national telephone survey of 1,272 people, 91.8% of mothers and 82.9% of fathers approved of corporal punishment of children.

(Kim, J. Y., 1998, "A study of correlations between attitudes about domestic violence and violent behaviors", *Korean Family Welfare Studies*, vol.2, pp.87-114, cited in Doe, S. J., 2000, "Cultural factors in child maltreatment and domestic violence in Korea", *Children and Youth Services Review*, vol.22, nos.3/4, pp.231-236)

## SINGAPORE

Research by the Singapore Children's Society, published in October 2006, examined parents' childrearing and how children view this. Over 1000 interviews were conducted with 533 parents (248 fathers, 285 mothers) and 533 children aged 10-12 years (262 boys and 271 girls) covering different ethnic groups, mostly middle-income families. The part of the study which focused on disciplinary practices found that reasoning was considered the most effective practice by both parents and children, but physical punishment was also used. Mothers tended to inflict physical punishment more frequently than fathers, though both regarded it as ineffective. Children were reported as "neutral" about both its effectiveness and its fairness.

(Shan, S.-C. H., Hawkins, R. & Whee, L. K., 2006, *The Parenting Project: Disciplinary practices, childcare arrangements and parenting practices in Singapore*, Singapore Children's Society)

A telephone poll of 358 people following the resignation of a school principal for breaking Ministry of Education guidelines on corporal punishment was carried out by the Sunday Times (by the Singapore Press Holdings' research arm in April 2004) and found that seven in 10 favoured corporal punishment, while nine in 10 said parents today were too protective of their children.

(Reported in Quek, T., 2004, "Go ahead, cane wayward students", *Sunday Times*, Singapore, 2 May 2004)

A Lifestyle (Sunday Times) poll of 50 people found that nine in 10 think girls are less well-behaved than they used to be and six in 10 approved of corporal punishment for girls.

(Reported in "Girls behaving badly", *Sunday Times*, Singapore, 9 May 2004)

A 2000 study by the Singapore Children's Society looked at public and professional perceptions of child abuse using a questionnaire sampling the views of 1,238 professionals (law enforcement, medical, social, educational, childcare) and comparing them with views of the public elicited in a 1996 study. The research found that public opinion agreed was that it was never acceptable to burn a child with hot objects, the majority felt that tying a child up was never acceptable (94.2%), more than half agreed that it was never acceptable to shake a child hard (68%) or to slap a child's face (53.8%), but only 28.5% felt that caning a child was always unacceptable. Professional opinion differed, with a greater percentage than for the public considering it never acceptable to tie up (94.8%), shake (72.6%) or slap a child (56.9%), but fewer considering it always unacceptable to cane a child (17.3%).

(Chan, J. J., Chow, Y. & Elliott, J. M., 2000, *Professional and Public Perceptions of Child Abuse and Neglect in Singapore*, Singapore Children's Society)

An analysis of newspaper reports of caning sentences imposed in 1997-2000 found that of about 360 sentences reported, 30 (8%) involved teenagers. Reported cases are likely to reflect only a fraction of the total, and it was estimated that in total an estimated 280 16-19 year-olds were sentenced to caning during this period.

## TAIWAN

In a nationwide survey by the Humanistic Education Foundation of 2,779 elementary and junior high school students in April and May 2007 more than 52.8% reported receiving corporal punishment, representing a decline compared with the figure of 64% for 2005. There was also a change in the types of punishment inflicted – student beatings dropped from 51% in 2005 to 27.3% in 2007, while the use of *fazhan* (standing for a certain period of time) increased from 9.7% in 2005 to 35% in 2007.

(Reported in the *Taipei Times*, 4 June 2007)

In January 2007, the findings from a survey of 5,630 elementary and junior high school educators who had attended discussions hosted by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education Association in autumn 2006 were published, revealing that 30% of teachers believed that corporal punishment is appropriate and necessary in improving academic performance, study skills and students' characters; 60% felt that educators would continue to use physical force as a disciplinary measure, despite the prohibition of corporal punishment in law; 69% felt that an online forum for sharing and discussing positive disciplinary methods would facilitate the move away from corporal punishment.

(Reported in *The China Post*, 19 January 2007)

The Humanistic Education Foundation conducted five surveys between 1999 and 2005 which showed a decline in the use of corporal punishment in schools. In 1999, 83.4% of students interviewed reported experiencing corporal punishment in that academic year. In 2000, the figure was 74.2%, in 2001 70.9%, and in 2004 it was 69.4%. In 2005, the survey was conducted in 23 cities/counties in Taiwan, involving 3,240 respondents (1,164 junior high school students and 2,076 primary school students). Almost two thirds of students (65.1%) reported having experienced corporal punishment, 56.2% of primary school students and 70% of junior high school students. The most common form of corporal punishment was by hitting on the palms or bottoms with a hand or stick (47.7%). Direct infliction of physical pain was used in 56.8% of cases (including hitting with a hand or stick, deprivation of physical needs, holding painful postures). Almost a quarter (23.9%) of students received punishment that may constitute crimes of assault, instigation of assault or public insults. Almost one in ten (9.5%) of those who experienced physical pain were punished in this way over 10 times during the year.

(Humanistic Education Foundation, 2005, *How much does it hurt? Only the children can tell: HEF 2005 survey of corporal punishment in schools*, HEF)

## THAILAND

In November 2006, the findings of a study funded by the National Health Foundation were released which showed that corporal punishment continues to be used in schools, despite its prohibition. The research constituted a questionnaire sent to 1,300 teachers in primary and high schools across the country. Punishments reported included hitting students with open palms, fists, clothes and blunt objects, kicking, applying heated materials and slapping the face. Up to 60% of the teachers strongly believed that corporal punishment was the right method to use with students.

(Reported in *The Nation*, 17 November 2006)

The government's written reply to the list of issues raised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2005 gives the following figures for the percentages of children aged 6-12 and 13-17 experiencing domestic violence in 2003: being yelled at/scolded 45.9% and 51.5% respectively; being cursed with

bad words 31.1% and 32.1%; being condemned 6.0% and 8.2%; being compared to an animal 8.3% and 11.8%; being whipped/caned 27.9% and 7.8%; being thrown at with an object 6.6% and 7.2%; having hair pulled 5.0% and 2.2%; being slapped 3.7% and 3.0%; being kicked and punched 2.9% and 2.5%; being trampled on 1.4% and 0.9%; having head knocked against the wall 0.7% and 0.2%; and being burned with a cigarette 0.3% and 0.1%.

(Associate Prof. L. Mohsuwan et al., 2003, reported in Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Replies to the List of Issues Sent by The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/THA/Q/2/Add.1, 2005)

A survey in 2001 of 9,488 young people aged 1-18 years in 16 provinces, reported by the Thailand Research Fund, found that 45.9% of children were verbally and physically attacked by their parents and elder relatives.

(Reported in the *Bangkok Post*, 1 October 2003, cited in International Save the Children Alliance, 2004, *How to research the physical and emotional punishment of children: Resource Handbook*, Bangkok, Thailand: International Save the Children Alliance)

A comparative study of 10,073 children aged 9-17 years across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that 26% of those surveyed in Thailand reported having been beaten by their parents.

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

In 1999, a study by the Department of Family Health in the Faculty of Family Health, Mahidol University, of 212 grade six students looked at the characteristics and frequency of physical and emotional violence against children by their biological parents. Almost all respondents (95.3%) reported being treated violently by their parents, and for 76.7% this involved physical violence. The most common form of physical violence was beating with a cane or belt.

(Isaranurug, S., Chansatitporn, N., Auewattana, P. & Wongarsa, C., 2002, "Violence against children by parents", *Journal of the Medical Association of Thailand*, vol. 85, no. 8, pp. 875-80)

## **TIMOR-LESTE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF**

Research carried out in 2004/5 by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Labour and Community Reinsertion, UNICEF and Plan International, examined the attitudes and practices of teachers and parents towards discipline of children. Self administered questionnaires were completed by 168 students and interviews were carried out with 1,031 parents and 31 community leaders; focus group discussions were held separately with students, parents, children who lived in residential care, and residential care staff. Over two thirds of children (67%) reported being beaten with a stick by teachers, and 39% reported being slapped on the face by teachers. Three out of five (60%) reported being beaten with a stick by their parents. Almost two thirds of parents (63%) felt it acceptable to yell violently at a child; almost two in five (39%) said it was acceptable to beat a child with a stick, and just over a third considered other physical punishments such as ear twisting and face slapping acceptable.

(UNICEF, 2006, *Speak Nicely to Me – A Study on Practices and Attitudes about Discipline of Children in Timor-Leste*)

In a survey by UNICEF of more than 500 children aged 9-17 years, carried out in 2001, 53% of children said "my parents beat me when I do something wrong"; 44% said that people hit each other in their homes; and while 87% of children found it easy to talk to their teachers about school related problems, among the remaining children 34% stated the reason they found it difficult to talk to teachers was because "they beat me".

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)

## TONGA

A survey of adolescents in schools was carried out by an ethnographer who had been a schoolteacher in Tonga examined their feelings and beliefs about parental corporal punishment. The children explained the punishments as being because of their parents' love, given because they deserved it and to teach them, but they also experienced it as a withdrawal of love and the majority reported negative responses to the punishments. The two most common responses were repentance and guilt, followed by anger (23.8%) and sadness (22.9%). The children reported feeling lonely, unwanted, afraid, not wanting to eat or talk, wanting to run away, wanting to die. Some said they hated their parents and wanted to punish them.

(Morton, H., 1996, *Becoming Tongan: An Ethnography of Childhood*, University of Hawai Press, USA, reported in Save the Children, 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific – Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children*, Save the Children Sweden)

An ethnographic study of childrearing in Tonga in the late 1980s and early 1990s found that physical punishment varied considerably between households in frequency and intensity but that there were common methods and motivations for the punishments. Children were most often hit with the hand or other object, and other common punishments included pinching, and pulling the hair or ear. Children could be punished by anyone older than them within their extended family.

(Kavapalu, 1993, "Dealing with the dark side in the ethnography of childhood: Child punishment in Tonga", *Oceania*, vol. 63, pp.313-329, reported in Save the Children, 2005, *Discipline and punishment of children: a rights-based review of laws, attitudes and practices in East Asia and the Pacific – Save the Children Sweden Southeast Asia and the Pacific, regional submission to the UN Secretary General's Global Study on Violence against Children*, Save the Children Sweden)

## VANUATU

Research conducted for Pacific Children's Program by a team from the University of South Pacific found that corporal punishment is common and can be severe. The rationale for its use is to "teach children about correct thinking and appropriate behaviour", although it is often administered in anger. The most common type of punishment is "whipping", used in the home and in schools.

(Hughes, D., 2002, *Qualitative Study on Child Protection Practices: Vanuatu Report*, University of South Pacific, Report prepared for International Development Support Services, Pacific Children's Program)

## VIET NAM

According to a statistical review by UNICEF, 61% of children aged 2-14 experienced minor physical punishment in the home in 2005-2006, although a smaller percentage of mothers/caretakers (46%) believed that children need to be physically punished. The same review reported that 64% of girls and women aged 15-49 believed that a husband or partner is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances.

(UNICEF, 2007, *Progress for Children: A World Fit for Children – Statistical Review, Number 6, December 2007*)

Large scale comparative research into the views and experiences of 3,322 children and 1,000 adults in 8 countries in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mongolia, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Viet Nam) was carried out by Save the Children in 2005. The research in Viet Nam involved 499 children (225 boys, 273 girls) from urban rural and remote areas, and 306 adults (85 men, 219 women). Methods used included research diaries, drawings, body maps, attitude survey, sentence completion, and discussions. Physical punishments mentioned by children in

Viet Nam included hitting with implements, punching, kicking, pinching, twisting body parts, throwing objects, electric shocks. At home, punishment by family members included: arm broken, beaten on the buttocks until raw then a mixture of salt and chilli rubbed on the wounds, beaten with a thick stick, ear twisted until torn and bleeding, electrocution with wires, excess labour, knelling on the spiky peel of durian fruit, standing naked outside the house, standing under the weight of a buffalo yoke, head repeatedly submerged in water, hanging on a tree and beaten until unconscious, hung on an electricity pole, hung on a wall by the hands, hung upside down from a tree, tied next to an ants nest, tied to a bicycle and forced to run alongside it, whipped while hanging from a tree. Punishments by teachers at school included: confined under a bed, standing in front of class and being denounced by classmates, hit on forehead by ruler thrown by teacher, hit on head by box of chalks, not being allowed to eat, stripped naked and beaten on the back, two children forced to slap each other on their cheeks. Of those who were hit, 50% were hit with an implement (34.8% with sticks etc, 15.2% with a whip, lash or belt), 45.5% were slapped with the hand, 4.5% kicked. Of those children who mentioned body parts where they were hit, 26% reported being hit on the head and neck, 27% on the limbs, 11% on the back, 13% buttocks, 5% chest, 4% stomach, and 1% genitalia. In terms of the settings in which children experienced punishment, the research found that in the home 81% of children experienced physical punishment, 19% emotional punishment, while in school 69% experienced physical punishment and 31% emotional.

(Beazley, H., S. Bessell, et al., 2006, *What Children Say: Results of comparative research on the physical and emotional punishment of children in Southeast Asia and Pacific*, 2005, Stockholm, Save the Children Sweden)

A comparative study of 10,073 children aged 9-17 years across East Asia and the Pacific by UNICEF and Research International Asia (Thailand) in 2001 found that 27% of those surveyed in Vietnam reported having been beaten by their parents. The reason for children finding it difficult to talk to teachers was given by 5% of the children as because the teachers “beat them”.

(UNICEF, 2001, *Speaking Out! Voices of Children and Adolescents in East Asia and the Pacific*)