

I. Abstract

Violence is a major public health problem prevalent all over the world and it affects health, life, and happiness of all of us. Many researches has reveled that violence is associated with children being expose to violent behaviors. The most commonly encountered mode of violence is disciplinary method used by parents; corporal punishment.

Corporal punishment is simply defined as intentional implication of pain on children. It is a form of child abuse and it also violates child's rights.

This study aimed at identifying the epidemiology and perception of teachers on corporal punishment among students aged 12-16yrs in Gampaha District. A descriptive cross sectional study was carried out using self administrated questionnaire given to both students and teachers. Sample was selected using multi-stage cluster sampling technique and data was analyzed using SPSS package and frequencies and summary values were obtained.

From my study it was found that prevalence of corporal punishment is rather high in schools as well as at homes. The significantly associated factors are the male students and those who attend school from places other than home. The teachers although admit that corporal punishment has negative impact on students; they continue to use corporal punishment as disciplinary method. The male teachers and those who are trained teachers are the two factors significantly associated with corporal punishment.

It is true that children should be disciplined. But disciplinary actions should not extend up to child abuse level. So that it is recommended to increase community awareness of negative impact of corporal punishment, of its ineffectiveness as disciplinary method aiming to change behavioral and attitudinal ideas of community. Teachers and parents should be made aware of alternative non-violent methods of disciplining the children.

Children are the future of our country. They should be protected and helped to grow up to the maximum potential level. They are unable to speak for their rights, so it is our duty to protect them.