

Assessment of Corporal Punishment among Laboring Children at Nominated Regions of Egypt

Nahed Abd-Elazeem Abd-Elsalam*, Jihan Mahmoud Farrag**,
Hanaa Mohamed Ibrahim Nassar***

*Lecturer in Family and Community Health Nursing Department, Faculty of Nursing, Port Said University, Egypt, **Lecturer in Pediatric Nursing Department, Faculty of Nursing, Port Said University, Egypt. ***Lecturer in Pediatric Nursing Department, Faculty of Nursing, Port Said University, Egypt.
Corresponding Author: Nahed Abd-Elazeem Abd-Elsalam*

Abstract

Corporal punishment is a worldwide problem.

The purpose with this study: is to assess corporal punishment among working children at nominated regions of Egypt

Research design: A comparative cross-sectional descriptive study design was used.

Setting: - The study was conducted in the region of the car repair workshops in two regions were Ismailia City and Port-Said City.

Population: Laborer children.

Sampling Technique: A purposive of Laborer children less than the age of 15 years old and who is working in car workshops

Sample size: The study consisted of two groups, 100 children from each city who were working in car repair small workshops during study time.

Research Tool: An interview questionnaire sheet to collect the needed data.

Result: 76% of the subjects are above the age of 12 years in Ismailia region but 16% of the samples below 12 years in Port-said city. Prevalence of Corporal Punishment among working children 87% in Ismailia and 96% in Port-said city also our finding shows that the 70% and 58% of the subjects are getting corporal punishment because of poor work performance in Ismailia and Port Said respectively. around 26% and 36% of the sample from both groups are getting Spank on bottom with hand, 11% and 5% of the subjects are getting Hit with object punishment of both group 52% of the subjects from Port Said and 38% of laborer in Ismailia are Threatened to spank

Conclusion: It can be concluded that child labor is the major risk factor for childhood abuse. Working children are experiencing different types of corporal punishment and injuries. Thus, it is recommended that must take possible effort and initiative to prevent the occurrence of corporal punishment and abuses among children through awareness programs, and periodical inspection by the legal department.

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I. Introduction

Corporal punishment or physical punishment is a punishment intended to cause physical pain on a person. It is most often used where there is a substantial disparity of power between punisher and punished. Corporal punishment is commonly practiced on minors, especially in home and also school settings, usually employing more modest forms. Common methods in this regard often include spanking or paddling. It is however also used on adults, particularly prisoners in some countries. In history most cultures have practiced corporal punishment on adults in settings of imprisonment or slavery. Frequently employed methods are flagellation and caning. In some countries bastinado is still practiced on prisoners as well. ^[1]

Nowadays all forms of child abuse gain worldwide attention, and many institutions and interested organizations taking so many efforts to overcome this complicated problem, being threatening not only the future of these children, but also the future of the entire community, because these abused children are considered to construct that future. Official punishment for crime by inflicting pain or injury, including flogging, branding and even mutilation, was practiced in most civilizations since ancient times. However, with the growth of humanitarian ideals since the Enlightenment, such punishments were increasingly viewed as inhumane. By the late 20th century, corporal punishment had been eliminated from the legal systems of most developed countries. ^[2]

The legality in the 21st century of corporal punishment in various settings differs by jurisdiction. Internationally, the late 20th century and early 21st century saw the application of human rights law to the question of corporal punishment in a number of contexts: Family or domestic corporal punishment—typically, punishment of children or teenagers by parents or other adult guardians—is legal in most of the world. 52 countries, most of them in Europe and Latin America, have banned the practice as of April 2017.^[3] corporal punishment—of students by teachers or school administrators—has been banned in many countries, including Canada, Kenya, South Africa, New Zealand and nearly all of Europe. It remains legal, if increasingly less common, in the United States. Judicial corporal punishment, as part of a criminal sentence ordered by a court of law, has long disappeared from European countries.^[4] However, it remains lawful in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America.^[5]

Most “child abuse” is corporal punishment – adults using violence to control and punish children. Research has consistently found that the majority of incidents substantiated by authorities as abuse occur in a punitive context.^[6-10] A major Canadian study found that nearly three quarters (74%) of all cases of “substantiated physical abuse” were cases of physical punishment and 27% of “substantiated emotional maltreatment incidents” were initiated as a form of punishment. In the vast majority of cases of “substantiated physical abuse”, physical violence was the primary form of maltreatment. Of these cases, most involved forms of violence typically used as punishments: just over half (54%) involved children being slapped or “spanked”, 30% involved children being shaken, pushed, grabbed or thrown, 21% involved children being hit with objects and 8% involved children being punched, kicked or bitten.^[11] Similarly, a study of 830 substantiated physical abuse cases in the USA in the 1980s concluded that “almost invariably” parents defined their actions as “disciplinary procedures that were required in response to the child’s behavior”.^[12] And a UK study found that the intent to discipline or punish was a common precursor in many child homicide cases.^[13]

All physical punishment, however “mild” and “light”, carries an inbuilt risk of escalation: its effectiveness in controlling children’s behavior decreases over time, encouraging the punisher to increase the intensity of the punishment.^[14] The risk of escalation of physical punishment is increased by the fact that adults who inflict physical punishment are often angry:^[15] their anger can increase the level of force used beyond what was intended, and their intent may be retaliatory as well as punitive. That corporal punishment and “abuse” are not two separate phenomena is further evidenced by studies which show that their effects are similar, varying only in degree. For example, a study in Canada found that people who had been physically punished as a child (defined as having something thrown at them, being pushed, grabbed, shoved, slapped or spanked, burned, hitting, punching, shaking, kicking, beating, or otherwise harming a child.^[12-15]

but had not experienced more severe forms of assault were more likely to experience psychiatric disorders as adults than those who had not been physically punished as children, but less likely than those who had experienced more severe forms of assault as children (being kicked, bitten, hit with a fist or object, beaten up, choked, burned, or scalded).^[16]

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO) unfortunately, an estimate of 256 million children, part of their everyday environment is a workplace throughout the world and 98% of economically active children are found in developing countries. For 171 million (2/3 of these), this workplace contains conditions, activities, or substances that are known to be dangerous and more often than not, the environment of these working children does not contain a school. What it does contain, however, are hazardous conditions including sexual exploitation, overexposure, long working hours, begging, and homelessness to just name a few.^[17]

Need And Significance Of The Study

Information on the numbers of children who die each year as a result of abuse comes primarily from death registries or mortality data. According to the World Health Organization. Suicide and homicide was the second and third leading causes of death, respectively, among teen's ages 15 to 19, after unintentional injury, in 2014.^[18] Firearms were the instrument of death in 88 percent of teen homicides and 41 percent of teen suicides in 2014.^[19] While non-firearm injuries result in death in only one out of every 760 cases, almost one in four youth firearm injuries is fatal. Among children less than 15 years of age. Global estimates of child homicide suggest that infants and very young children are at greatest risk, with rates for the 0-4 years old age group more than double those of 5 –14 years old.^[20]

Aim of the study:

To assess corporal punishment among working children at nominated regions of Egypt

II. Subject And Method

Research design:

A comparative cross-sectional descriptive study design to achieve the aim of the study.

Setting of the study:-

The study was conducted in the region of the car repair workshops region in two regions were Ismailia City and Port-Said City.

Population:-

Laborer children

Sampling Technique

Purposive Sampling Technique

Sample

Laborer children less than the age of 15 years old and who is working in car Workshops

Sample size

The study consisted of two groups, 100 children from Ismailia City and 100 children from Port-Said. Who were working in car repair small workshops during study time?

Research Tool

An interview schedule was developed based on the review of relevant literature by the researchers and used to elicit information about:-

- 1- Demographic data as age, sex, residence, educational level and cause of work.
- 2- The presence of experienced physical punishment at work.
- 3- The methods of physical punishment.
- 4- Type of injuries occurred.
- 5- Health problems
- 6- Response of family and witnesses towards corporal punishment.

Data Collection Process

Permission was obtained from the workshop's owners for conducting study in their areas. Children included in the study were interviewed individually using the developed tool in the place of their work.

III. Statistical Analysis

The collected data were coded tabulated and analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS). Frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations for different items were obtained)

Result:

Table (1): Distribution Of The Sample Based On Age

Demographic characteristics	Ismailia (n= 100)		Port-Said (n=100)	
	N	%	N	%
Age/ years	24	24.0	16	16.0
• 8->12	76	76.0	84	84.0
• 12->16				
Mean	12.2 ± 10.2		12.8 ± 9.2	

Table (1) depicts that 76% of the subjects are above the age of 12 years in Ismailia region but 16% of the samples below 12 years in Port-said city.

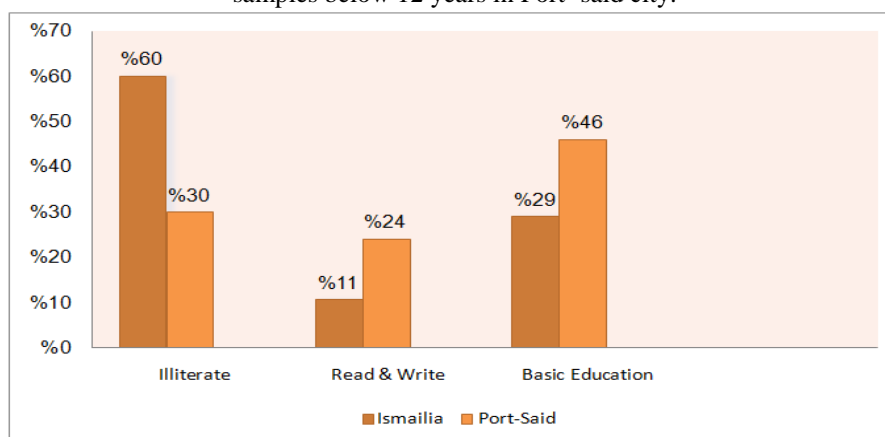


Figure 1: Distribution of sample based on Level of Education

Figure 1 shows that 60% of study sample were uneducated in Ismailia and 46% of the subjects have elementary education in Port-said city.

Table 2: Distribution of the sample according to the reason for Child labor

Reason for Child labor	Ismailia (n= 100)		Port-Said (n=100)	
	N	%	N	%
Family reasons	78	78.0	88	88.0
Self-requirements	22	22.0	12	12.0

Table 2 shows that 88% of the subjects were working for self-requirements in Port- said. While 78% of the samples were working for their family in Ismailia

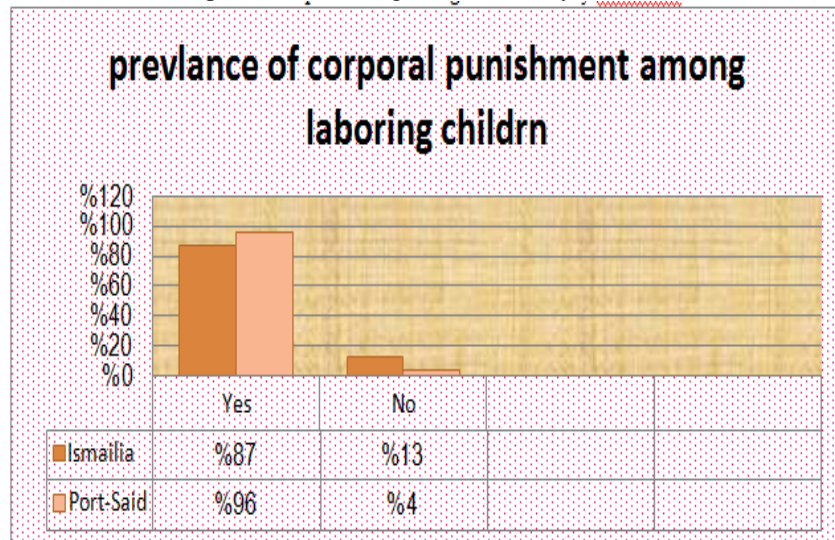


Figure 2: Prevalence of corporal punishment among working children.

Table 3: Distribution of the sample according to causes of corporal punishment.

Corporal punishment	Ismailia (n= 100)		Port-Said(n = 100)	
	N	%	N	%
Causes:-				
For purposes of disciplining of children.	22	22	34.0	34.0
Coming late to work	20	20	9.0	9.0
Poor performance	70	70	58.0	58.0
No clear reason	22	22	20.0	20.0
Misbehavior	9	9	14.0	14.0

Table 3 shows that the 70% and 58% of the subjects are getting corporal punishment because of poor work performance in Ismailia and Port Said respectively.

Table 4: Distribution of the sample according to types of Corporal Punishment

Types of corporal punishment	Ismailia (n= 87)		Port-Said(n = 96)	
	N	%	N	%
A. Ordinary				
Spank on bottom with hand	22	26	34	36.0
Slap on hand, arm or leg	20	23	9	10.0
B. Severe				
Hit with object	9	11	4	5.0
Slap on face, head or ears	17	20	22	23.0
Pinch	15	18	7	8
C. Other				
Shake	12	14	5	6
Threatened to spank		38	50	52
	33			

Mutual number

Table 4 displays that around 26% and 36 of the sample from both groups are getting Spank on bottom with hand, 11% and 5% of the subjects are getting hit with object punishment of both group 52% of the subjects from Port Said and 38% of laborer in Ismailia are threatened to spank

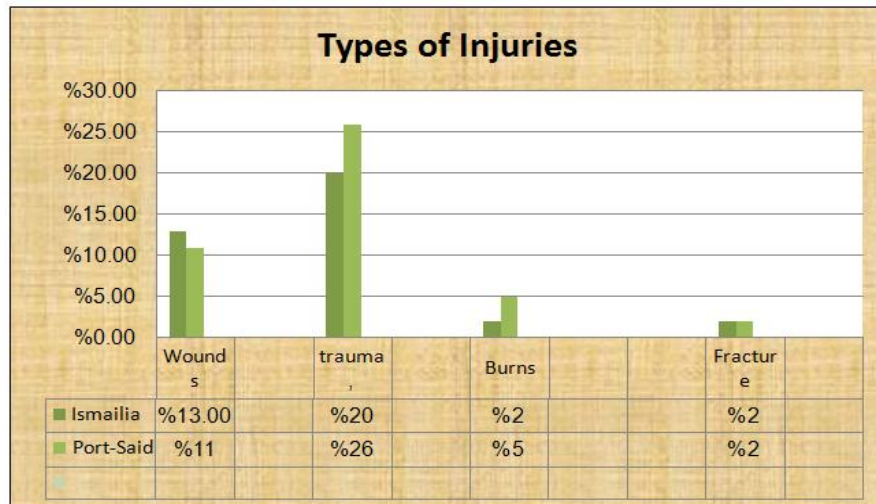


Figure 4: Distribution of the sample based on types of injuries resulting from corporal punishment.

Figure 4 illustrates that 20% and 26% of the samples are getting bruises and abrasions among Ismailia and Port- said groups respectively. Around 13 % of the samples of both groups are suffered from wounds. 5 % of the samples from Port- said city were experiencing burns and 2% head injuries.

Table 5: Distribution of the sample according to occurrence of complication from corporal punishment

Occurrence of complication	Ismailia (n= 87)		Port-Said (n=96)	
	N	%	N	%
Yes	33	37.0	43	44.0
No	54	73.0	53	56.0

Table 2 shows that 37% and 44% of the subjects in Ismailia and Ismailia respectively had complication.

Table 6: Distribution of the sample based on need and place of treatment

Items	Ismailia (n=33)		Port-Said (n=43)	
	N	%	N	%
Needs for medical treatment:				
Yes	21	64.0	26	52.0
No	12	36.0	17	48.0
Place of treatment:-				
Home	16	77.0	24	93.0
Hospital	5	23.0	2	7.0

Table 6 reveals that 64% and 52% of the samples from both groups need medical treatment. As regards place of treatment, it was found that 23% 7% of the samples went to hospitals respectively.

Table 7: Distribution Of The Sample based On Family Responses To corporal punishment

Responses	Ismailia (n= 87)		Port-Said (n= 96)	
	N	%	N	%
Family responses:-				
Strongly agree	4	05.3	19	20
Agree	24	28	46	48
Disagree	38	44	8	9
Strongly disagree	9	10	07	8
Undecided	12	14	16	17

Table 7: illustrates that 28% and 48% of family members are agree with corporal punishment respectively only few of them respond against corporal punishment.

Table 8: Distribution of the sample based on how CP affected them.

Table 8: shows that 58% reported that CP made them dislike the work, 73% stated that CP made them hate their leader, 20% and 13% asserted that CP made them challenge their leaderwork place, and 84% and 86% of each

Child response	Ismailia (n= 87)		Port-Said (n= 96)	
	N	%	N	%
Leave work:-				
Yes	43	50.0	48	50.0
No	44	50.0	48	50.0
Confirmed that CP made them angry a lot				
Yes	73	84	83	86
No	14	16	13	14
CP helped them improve their performance				
Yes	73	84	83	86
No	14	16	13	14
CP corrected their misbehavior				
Yes	18	20	13	13
No	69	80	83	87
CP made them challenge their poss.				
Yes	18	20	13	13
No	69	80	83	87
CP made them dislike the work				
Yes	51	58	29	30
No	36	62	60	87

group confirmed that CP made them angry a lot.

IV. Discussion

In the present study that 76% of the subjects are above the age of 12 years in Ismailia region but 16% of the samples below 12 years in Port- said city. This finding is consistent with the percentage of children in the Egyptian labor force has been estimated to be 12% and economically active children represent 6.5% of the population for the age group of 6-14 years^[21]. Also, every year more than 25,000 child laborers under 17 years die as a result of occupational injuries.

In the present study, 60% of study sample were uneducated in Ismailia and 46% of the subjects have elementary education in Port-said city. Child labors cannot attend school a precious right that will equip them to build a better future for themselves.^[22] All the working children in the small car repair workshops are males and most of them were illiterate.

According to **El Wady 2010**^[23] review of studies on child labor in different countries found that poverty is the most common cause of this phenomena, The results of the present study mentioned that most of the study sample of both groups, they are working for sustenance of their families. These results are supporting by **Donne II (2003)**^[24] who stated that parental poverty as the main reason why children are working. Children in a variety of situations have to work for their livelihood. Many families are depends on children's income. Often the schooling of the children depends on the income they earn. Children may work in informal trading enterprises, and either helping their parents or operating on their own account. Some of the children are working in small-scale agriculture in their family plots or the plots of others; children working for their schooling in formal plantations. While all these tasks take up time and energy of the children, and sometimes detract from their schoolwork. This is particularly so when children are the main bread- winners for their families in the absence of able adults.

Our results provide new evidence as to the prevalence of corporal punishment, among working children to be 87% & 96% respectively among both groups which is higher than the expected rate. 70% and 58% of the subjects are getting corporal punishment because of poor work performance in Ismailia and Port Said respectively^[25].

In corporal punishment, the adult usually hits various parts of the child's body with a hand or with canes, paddles, yardsticks, belts, or other objects expected to cause pain and fear⁽¹⁶⁾. Present study results revealed that around 26% and 36% of the sample from both groups are getting spank on bottom with hand, 11% and 5% of the subjects are getting hit with object punishment of both group 52% of the subjects from Port Said and 38% of laborer in Ismailia are threatened to spank. In the majority of the cases physical abuse is the unintentional end result of harsh disciplinary methods or corporal punishment that have escalated to point of physical injury or the risk of physical injury. Physical abuse often occurs simultaneously with oilier forms of child maltreatment^[26].

Current study reports shows that 20% and 26% of the samples are getting bruises and abrasions among Ismailia and Port- said groups respectively. Around 13 % of the samples of both groups are suffered from wounds. 5 % of the samples from Port- said city were experiencing burns and 2% head injuries. . Patterns of physical findings that strongly suggest a diagnosis of physical abuse may be bruises on uncommonly injured body surfaces, blunt-instrument marks or burns, human hand marks or bite marks, multiple injuries at different stages of healing, evidence of poor care or failure to thrive, circumferential immersion burns, or unexplained retinal hemorrhages⁽¹⁷⁾.

In the present study reports shows that 64% and 52% of the samples from both groups need medical treatment. As regards place of treatment, it was found that 23% 7% of the samples went to hospitals respectively. Children may be abused by burning, which can result in disfiguring or fatal injuries. Cigarette burns leave centimeter-sized circular marks on the skin. Scald marks on the hands, feet or buttocks that have a glove, sock or circular appearance and spare the intertriginous areas are caused by deliberate immersion of the child in a sink or bathtub of hot water. The presence of excessive splash burns or of scalds on areas of the body not likely to get wet when a child spills a container of hot liquid suggests an inflicted injury⁽¹⁸⁾

Our finding Research approved that family members are agreeing with corporal punishment. These results in the same line with a collection of persons and organizations identified the opinions, needs and fears of children, parents based on focus groups, questionnaires, interviews, and reviews of relevant research and political and non-political materials. It found, among other things, that while there was high support for corporal punishment among parents (92%) and only 8% felt it should be abolished, almost one in four (23%) felt children would be better behaved in if corporal punishment was not used; 2% felt there would be no change in behavior. Parents said they would support prohibition. Their opinions would be changed by media campaigns.^[27]

V. Conclusion

It can be concluded that child labor is the major risk factor for childhood abuse. Working children are experiencing different types of corporal punishment and injuries. Thus, it is recommended that must take possible effort and initiative to prevent the occurrence of corporal punishment and abuses among children through awareness programs, and periodical inspection by the legal department.

Recommendations

- Involve adults and children in the work with children's rights, in schools and homes.
- To develop the awareness and knowledge a measure can be to educate the children in human and children's rights, in a subject on its own or integrated in existing subjects.
- There can be other problems in the society that affect the use of corporal punishment, such a social, economy and stress. This is something the societies have to deal with. It is important to say that Human and Children's rights concern us all and not only people far away.
- Regular checkup and surveillance campaigns should be done to detect corporal punishment and abuses among child laborers.
- Further research about this issue should be carried out on a wider scale to determine the greatness of the problem and methods of reform.

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