

Corporal Punishment: A Holistic Consideration

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Educational Foundations

Abstract

The article defines the terms discipline, punishment and corporal punishment. It advances the argument that legislating against corporal punishment erodes the authority of the teacher and undermines their commitment to duty. The teacher as an authority in authority must have the trust and respect that his/her profession merits. This however is not to condone those individuals who may be misguided and resort to unjustified use of corporal punishment. It is further argued that the either or stand point to the question of corporal punishment is too simplistic, and that there are circumstances in which corporal punishment is warranted and others in which it is not. But the moment we legislate against it, we commit ourselves to the view that there are no circumstances under which corporal punishment would be warranted.