

Parents' beliefs about corporal punishment of children

**Baseline survey carried out with the parents of
“AAA BBB” School, Durrës,
“XXX XXX” School and
“WWW XXX” Kindergarten, Elbasan**

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Prof. Dr. Theodhori Karaj

The author has the full responsibility of the content of this report, which does not necessarily represent Save the Children views.

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Acknowledgements

The “Parents’ beliefs about corporal punishment of children” Survey was carried out in “AAA BBB” School, Durrës, “XXX XXX” School, Elbasan, and “WWW XXX” Kindergarten, Elbasan which are located in areas with a high ethnic and cultural diversity.

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Based on the recommendations of the two national studies on violence against children, carried out by UNICEF in 2006 and by Save the Children in 2007, Save the Children has started, since 2008, to implement the “Violence in schools” project in two pilot 9-year schools and two pilot kindergartens in Durrës and Elbasan. Data from both national studies provide evidences about the use of different forms of violence against children at high levels, both in their homes and in the schools. A survey especially conducted in the two pilot schools and pilot kindergartens also evidences high levels of corporal punishment exerted by teachers and parents.

On the theoretical aspect, it is known that the practice of corporal punishment is encouraged and based on specific beliefs related to the effectiveness of corporal punishment. Parents and teachers who believe in the disciplinary values of corporal punishment are more inclined to punish children corporally. Knowing and addressing the entire inventory of parents and teachers beliefs with regards to corporal punishment helps remarkably in reducing the use of corporal punishment.

The surveys conducted so far with regards to corporal punishment of children in Albania, provide copious data about the practices of corporal punishment in the schools and in the families. On the other hand, data on parents and teachers beliefs concerning corporal punishment are missing or are, at best, too superficial. In order to fill this gap and address corporal punishment the most thoroughly possible, Save the Children carried out this survey on teachers and parents beliefs¹ with regards to corporal punishment of children in the two pilot schools, “AAA BBB” in Durrës and “XXX XXX” in Elbasan, and in “WWW XXX” kindergarten in Elbasan, which are located in areas with significant ethnic and cultural diversity.

¹ The methodology and the instrument used in both schools, both in the parents’ survey and in the teachers’ one, has been the same. Since Save the Children has asked two different reports, the present report will only include the data related to the parents’ beliefs with regards to corporal punishment. Data on teachers will be presented in a specific report. However, due to the use of the same methodology, both reports will be very similar in the way they are elaborated, but will include the respective differences in their results.

Methodology of the survey

Aim and objectives

The aim of this survey has been the collection of data on the most common beliefs among the parents of "AAA BBB" school in Durrës, "XXX XXX" school in Elbasan and "WWW XXX" kindergarten in Elbasan with regards to physical (corporal) punishment of children. The data gathered from this survey will be used as a starting point and will serve as a basis which the new data gathered from the reconduction of the same survey in a future moment, after some interventions with parents and teachers have taken place, will be compared with. The differences between the initial data and the data gathered after the interventions will be used to ascertain the effectiveness of these interventions in changing the beliefs concerning corporal punishment.

The specific objective of this survey has been to identify parents' beliefs concerning:

- Disciplinary value of corporal punishment
- Possible consequences of corporal punishment
- Tolerance in using corporal punishment
- Corporal punishment perpetrators
- Execution of corporal punishment by gender
- Execution of corporal punishment by age

Procedures - the sample

The pattern of this survey have been 195 parents of the "AAA BBB" school² in Durrës, "XXX XXX" school in Elbasan and "WWW XXX" kindergarten in Elbasan. This pattern represents 9% of the entire number of parents in both schools.

93 parents belong to "AAA BBB" school in Durrës. They represent 7% of the total number of parents of this school. The features of this sample are: 34.4 % are males and 64.5% females; 8.6% are 25-30 years old, 45.2% are 30-40 years old, 40.9% are 40-50 years old and 5.4% are over 50; 1.1% have received primary education, 30.1% have received 8-year education, 53.8% have high school education, 14% have higher education and 1.1% are uneducated.

102 parents belong to "XXX XXX" school and "WWW XXX" kindergarten, both in Elbasan. They represent 12.8% of the total number of parents in both institutions. The features of the sample are: 35.3 % are males, 63.7% are females; 17.6% are 25-30 years old, 53.9% are 30-40 years old, 21.6% are 40-50 years old, 6.2% are over 50; 2.9% have primary education (grades 1-4), 43.1% have 8-year education, 34.3% have graduated high school, 17,6% have graduated higher education and 2% are uneducated.

Instrument

For the realization of this survey were used two instruments: a half-structured questionnaire and a structured one.

² "Neim Babameto" school includes the preschool education structure.

The half-structured questionnaire was used in the focus groups and in the in-depth interviews. The aim was to identify the various beliefs which are more common among parents in order to include them in the structured questionnaire.

The structured questionnaire is divided in two parts³:

In the first part there are 27 statements which express various beliefs of parents concerning corporal punishment. Each statement is measured with a five-level Likert scale: Strongly Agree, Partially Agree, Neither Agree nor Disagree, Partially Disagree, Strongly Disagree.

The second part of the questionnaire includes questions related to the various demographic characteristics of the participants in the survey. The structured questionnaire has been used to measure the incidence of the various beliefs of the parents involved in the survey with regards to corporal punishment.

The same questionnaires have been used for both parents and teachers.

Data collection and analysis

Data collection has been carried out during March 2009. Some of the data are qualitative ones. They have been collected through the focus groups as well as through in-depth interviews with the parents of both schools. Two focus groups have been carried out (each focus group included 10 parents) as well as 8 individual in-depth interviews with parents. Through the focus groups and the in-depth interviews we were able to identify the range of parents' beliefs regarding corporal punishment of children. These beliefs, together with other beliefs identified by other studies on corporal punishment carried out in Albania, have been included in the structured questionnaire, which has been delivered to a large number of parents (195 parents). This structured questionnaire was distributed to parents who returned it after filling it in.

For data elaboration we have used the SPSS program. For data analysis we used elements of descriptive statistics. In these studies only data within the statistical parameters has been reported.

³ See Appendix 1

Main findings of the survey

1. About 85% of the parents of both schools believe that a good child should always obey to his/her parents.
2. One in two parents (51%) thinks that who smacks the child does it for his/her best
3. 20.5% of parents believe that corporal punishment is a good way of disciplining.
4. About 19% of parents (1 in about 5 parents) think that slapping makes you a decent human being.
5. One in two parents thinks that corporal punishment is acceptable, at least in some cases,
6. One in about two parents thinks that when the child exaggerates he/she must be slapped
7. About 44% of parents think that a parent is allowed to slap his/her child
8. About 43% of parents think that the teacher is allowed to slap the child too
9. About 76% of parents think that the child can be slapped, but only with a few light slaps
10. 58% of parents think that a slap wouldn't be of any harm for the child
11. 34.2% (or 1 in about 3) of parents believe that if the child isn't slapped, he/she would be out of control
12. About 43% (or 1 in about 2) of the parents believe that the child cannot be educated if he/she doesn't feel any fear.
13. 1 in 5 parents believes that corporal punishment is the only mean by the use of which some children can be disciplined.
14. 34% (1 in about 3) of the parents believe that it is more appropriate to slap a boy than a girl, because girls are more vulnerable than boys.
15. 1 in about 2 parents believes that it is more appropriate to slap a little child than a bigger one, because the latter is more sensitive and may get hurt.
16. About 29% of the parents believe that little children can be slapped because they do not understand words, while the bigger ones shouldn't be slapped because they do understand.
17. 1 in 2 parents believes that it is better to slap the child than to insult him/her.
18. 42% of the parents believe that mothers are more justified than fathers when hitting the child.
19. 22% (or 1 in about 5) of the parents believe that corporal punishment is not entirely harmful for the child and that it shouldn't be completely banned.

Results

Beliefs of all the parents involved in the survey regarding corporal punishment

Table 1. Parents' beliefs regarding corporal punishment (total in %)

How much do you agree with the statements below?	Strongly Agree	Partially Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Partially Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Who slaps the child does it for his/her best	33.5%	18%	5.2%	8.2%	35.1%
2. It's better to pull a child's ear or slap him/her than insult him/her	38.2%	19.4%	9.4%	13.6%	19.4%
3. A child cannot be educated if he/she doesn't feel any fear	29.9%	12.8%	3.7%	11.2%	42.2%
4. A slap or ear pulling will not cause any harm to the child	41.5%	17%	4.8%	11.2%	25.5%
5. It is allowed to slap the child when he/she really exaggerates	25.8%	15.1%	4.3%	15.6%	39.2%
6. If you don't slap the child, he/she will be out of control	23.5%	10.7%	5.9%	14.4%	44.9%
7. If you talk to the child and he/she doesn't obey, than you should slap him/her	18.9%	9.7%	7.6%	18.9%	44.9%
8. A good child always obeys to his/her parents.	67.5%	17.3%	2.6%	8.4%	4.2%
9. The child can be slapped but only by light slaps	49.2%	28.3%	3.1%	9.4%	9.9%
10. Little children do not understand when you speak to them, thus they should be slapped, while the bigger ones do understand.	18.6%	10.3%	6.2%	12.9%	52.1%
11. Corporal punishment (slapping, hitting) is a good way of disciplining	15.4%	5.1%	1.5%	11.3%	66.7%
12. Corporal punishment is the only mean to discipline some children	13.2%	11.1%	7.9%	17.5%	50.3%
13. Corporal punishment can be used as the last resort to discipline children once everything else fails	25.9%	16.9%	9.0%	13.2%	34.9%
14. Hitting makes a child a decent human being	12.0%	6.3%	2.1%	11.5%	68.1%
15. Corporal punishment only is acceptable as an exception, in some specific cases	18.1%	16.6%	15.5%	25.4%	24.4%
16. Children do not understand words, that's why they must be slapped	10.8%	9.3%	5.7%	19.1%	55.2%

17. Parents are allowed to slap their children, but teachers aren't.	22.4%	21.4%	6.8%	11.5%	38.0%
18. You can smack the boy in case he is disobedient, but not the girl as she is fragile and can be hurt	19.7%	14.9%	8.0%	13.8%	43.6%
19. You can give a slap to little children, but you cannot do that with older ones, because they can get hurt	27.8 %	13.4%	3.6%	16.0%	39.2%
20. The child makes mistakes, that's why he/she must be hit (slapped)	16.4%	11.8%	7.7%	8.7%	54.9%
21. Mothers are more justified than fathers when hitting the child	22.3%	19.7%	6.2%	16.6%	35.2%
22. The teacher is allowed to slap the child in some specific cases	25.1%	17.8%	4.7%	14.7%	37.7%
23. The teacher is allowed to slap his/her own child but is absolutely not allowed to slap students at school	25.3%	24.7%	6.3%	10.5%	33.2%
24. Corporal punishment of children is absolutely harmful	66.7%	7.4%	3.7%	3.2%	19.0%
25. Corporal punishment of children should be banned completely	67.0%	11.5%	4.7%	5.2%	11.5%

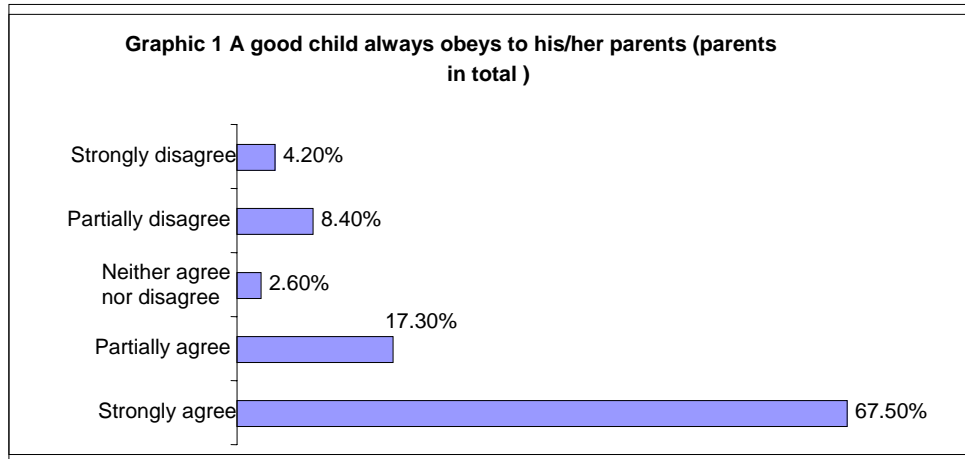
Table 1 shows the percentages of the beliefs of the parents of both schools, “AAA BBB”⁴ in Durrës and “XXX XXX” in Elbasan, and of “WWW XXX” kindergarten in Elbasan. Further down we will make a description of some of the main categories of beliefs concerning corporal punishment: the belief related to corporal punishment as part of the parental love; the beliefs related to the importance of corporal punishment in children’s disciplining; the beliefs related to the consequences of corporal punishment; the beliefs about when corporal punishment must be used; the beliefs regarding the level of severity of corporal punishment that must be used; beliefs about who has the right to practice corporal punishment against children and beliefs about corporal punishment depending on child’s age and gender.

Beliefs concerning the nature of child-adult relation

“The child behaves well when he/she obeys to parents. He/she must be very obedient. When he/she answers back he/she is having a bad behaviour. The child should follow take the road parents indicate him/her. The child who doesn’t do that is over”.

50-year old parent

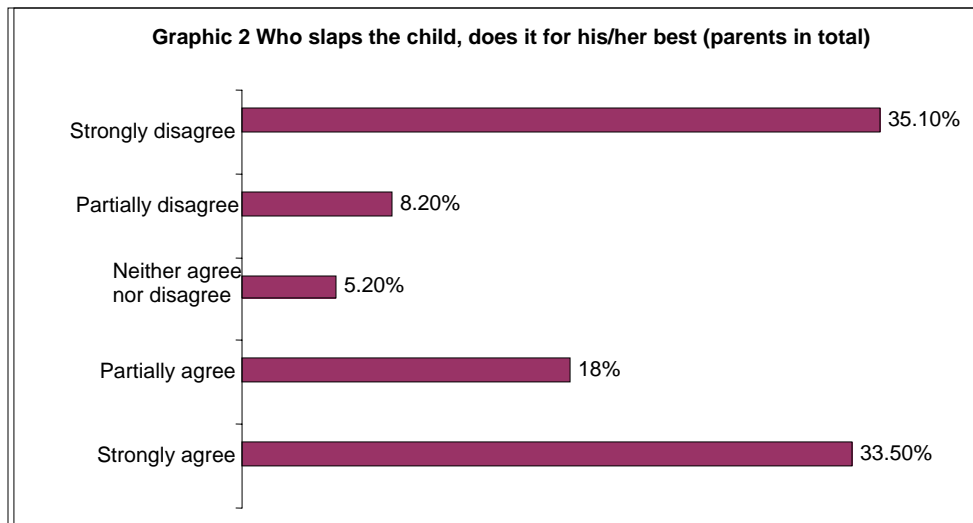
⁴ “Neim Babameto” school includes the preschool education structure.



About 85% of the parents agree with the idea that a good child must always obey to his/her parent (See Graphic 1). The percentage of parents who agree with this opinion is higher than the teachers' percentage. The data indicate that 73% of the teachers agree with this opinion. As seen in most of the parents (and even teachers), the unconditioned obedience of children towards parents is considered an essential element in the relations parent-child.

Beliefs related to corporal punishment as part of the parental love

More than 50% of the parents agree with the opinion "who slaps you, loves you" (Graphic 2). Meanwhile, only 30% of the teachers do agree with the idea that who slaps the child does it for his/her best.

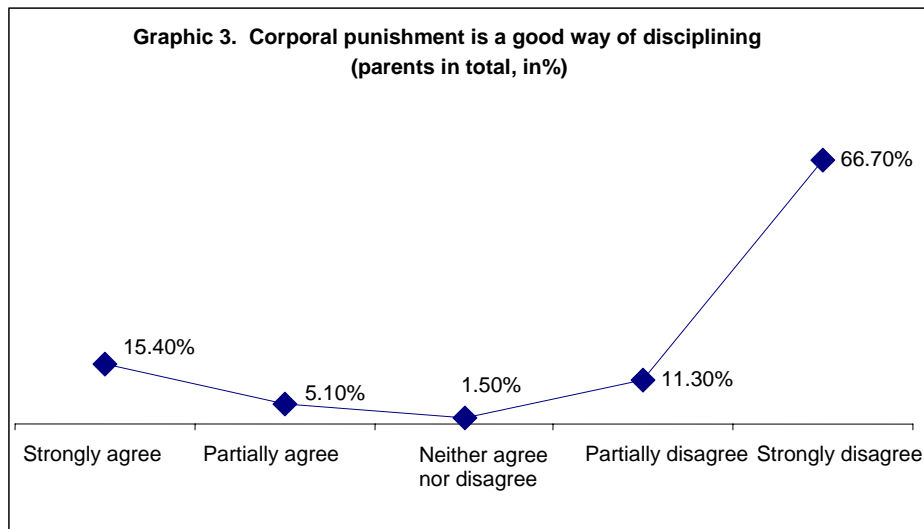


This belief, so deeply rooted, especially in parents, justifies not only parental physical violence but also the violence perpetrated in other institutions where children are educated.

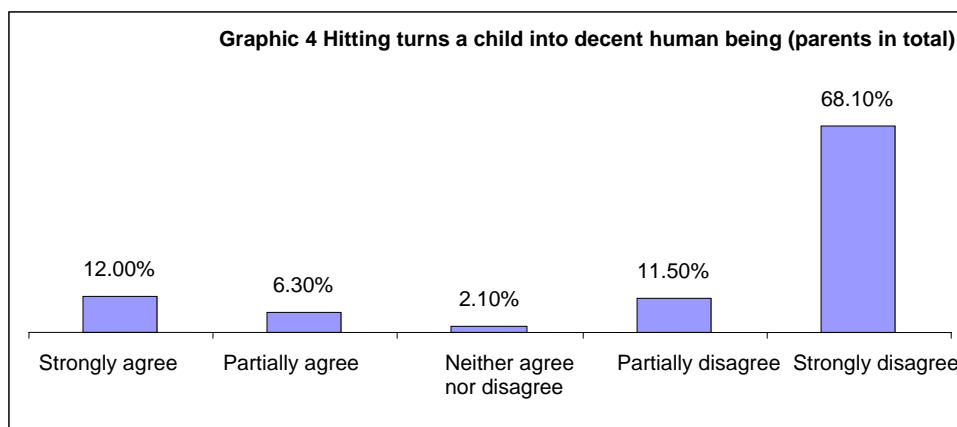
“I think that if the teacher pulls the child’s ear, he/she is doing it for the child’s best. The teacher can give a slap to the child. He/she is not doing it as revenge against me, because my child is his/her child. I shouldn’t go to the teacher and ask him/her why he/she pulled my child’s ear. He/she is trying to do what’s best for my child”.

50-year old father

Beliefs on the disciplining value and consequences of corporal punishment



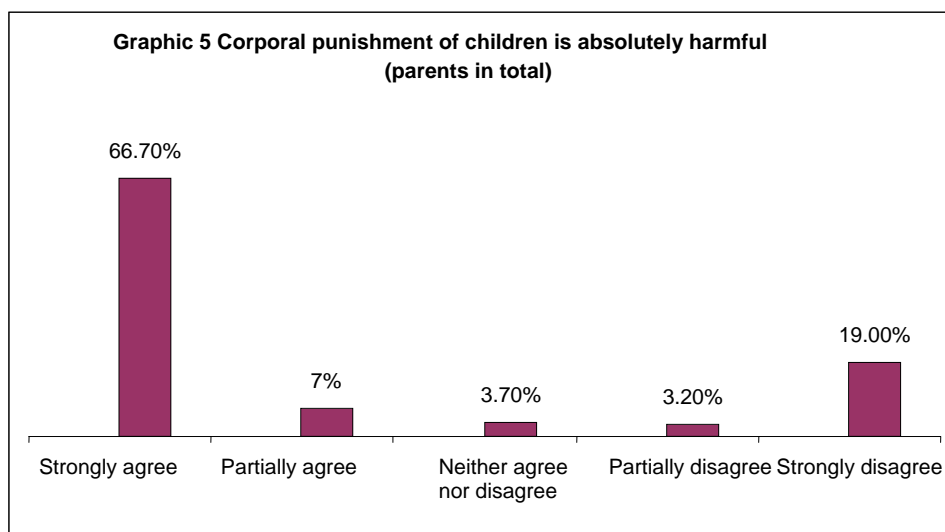
More than 20% of the parents or 1 in 5 parents agree with the opinion that corporal punishment is a good way of disciplining (See Graphic 3). The percentage of parents who agree with this opinion is 3 times higher than the teacher one (20.5% of parents towards 6.5% of teachers).



18.3% of parents agree (fully or partially) with the statement “Hitting turns a child into a decent human being” (educates the child). (See Graphic 4)

“In moments of anger it is allowed to slap, because slapping is educative. It drives the child not to repeat the same mistake he did today. For example, he says ‘give me 500 lekë because I need them in school’; I tell him I don’t have this money but he still insists; but I don’t know where to find this money. He repeats again ‘give me the money’ and then I slap him”.

50-year old father



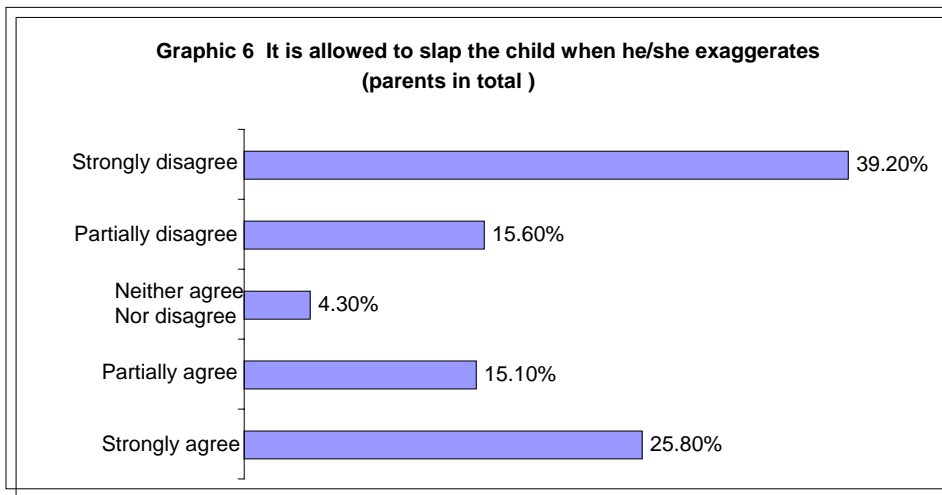
More than 20% of the parents (or 1 in 5 parents) do not agree with the opinion that corporal punishment of children is absolutely harmful (See Graphic 5).

Most of the parents do not believe in the educative values of corporal punishment. However, data show that a relatively significant percentage of parents do give a certain importance to the

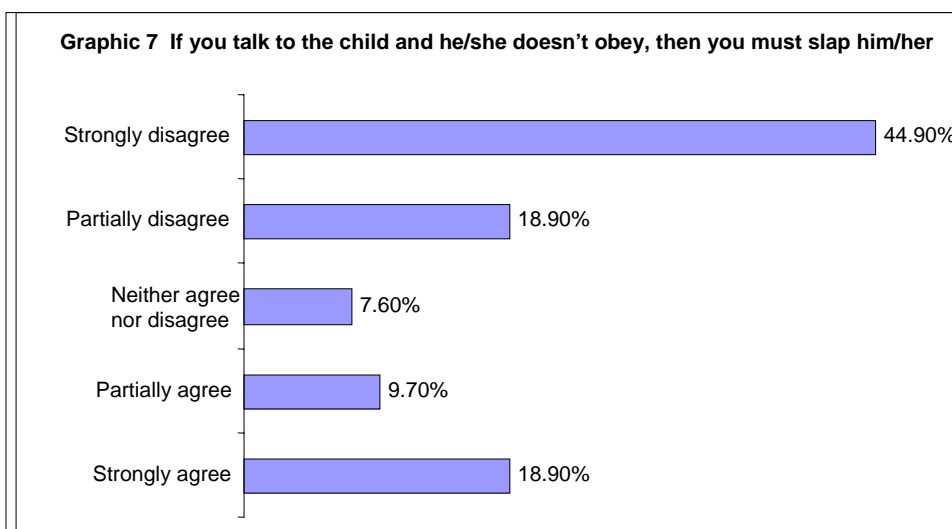
educative values of corporal punishment. At the same time, 1 in 5 parents does not think that corporal punishment has consequences on children. This means that this category of parents is not well-informed about the consequences that corporal punishment may have on the child's physical and mental health.

Beliefs concerning the use of corporal punishment in some cases

A high percentage of parents, as well as teachers, though believing that corporal punishment does not have any important educative value for children, still do think that it can be used when required by circumstances, when the child exaggerates, when the child doesn't obey after you talk to him, etc.



More than 40% of the parents agree, totally or partially, that the child might be punished when he/she exaggerates (See Graphic 6).



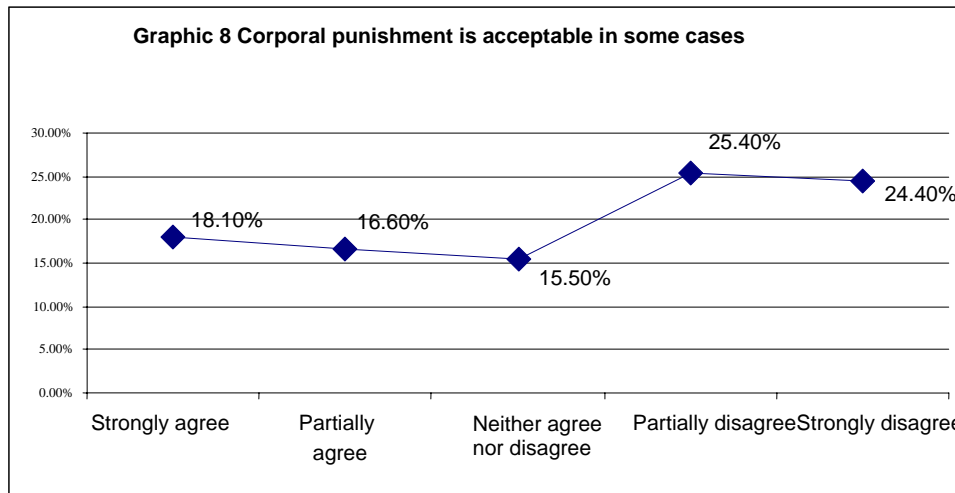
More than 28% of the parent (or 1 in about 3 parents) think that they can use corporal punishment when the child doesn't obey after they talk to him/her (Graphic 7).

“When you tell the child to do something, he/she might absolutely do it. If he/she doesn't obey, you have no control on the child. If the child is not afraid of the parents, he/she isn't a child”.

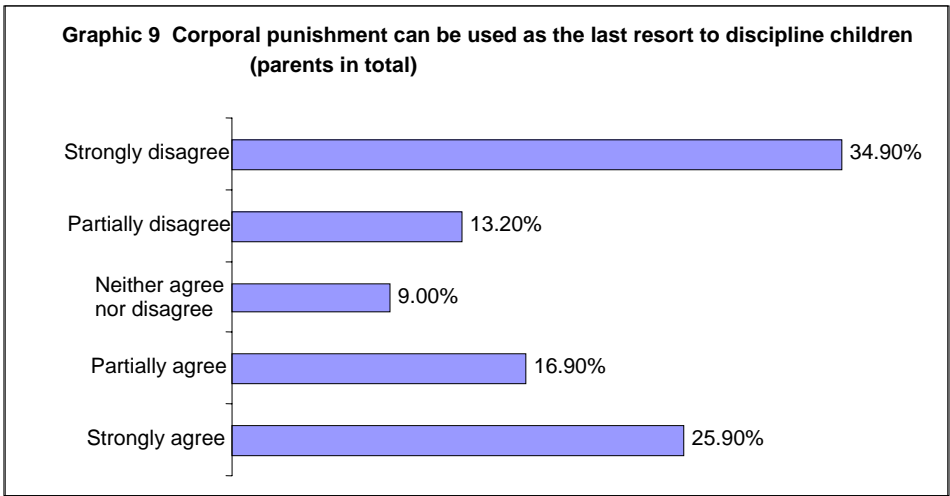
55-year old mother

“It is not a good think to slap a child, but when he/she doesn't obey once and twice, he/she leaves you no other choice. If he/she deserves it, slap him/her, not once, but 5 times. For example, I ask my child to do something; he doesn't do it... once, twice, three times... then I lose my patience and slap him. If he doesn't obey, I slap him or live him without food”.

50-year old father



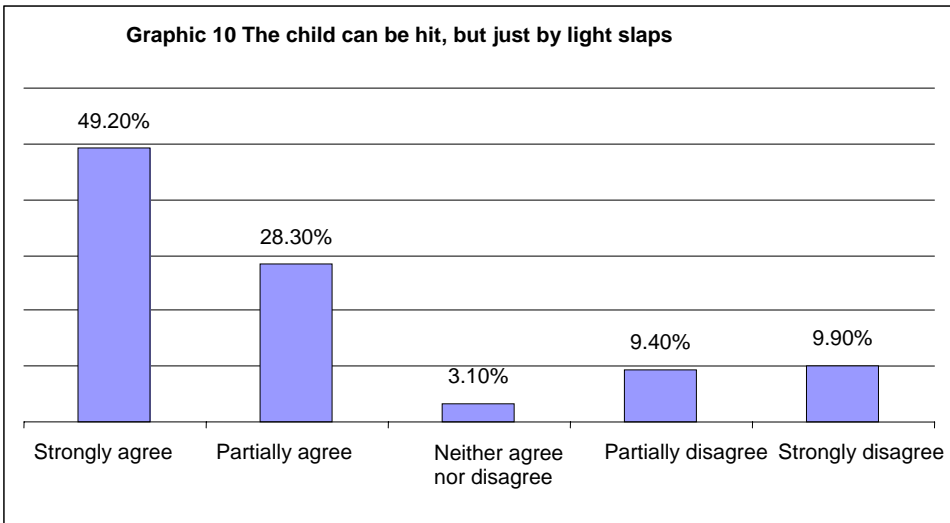
About 35% of the parents think that it is acceptable to use corporal punishment in few cases, as an exception, while 15.5% are undecided (Graphic 8)



More than 40% of the parents believe that corporal punishment can be used as the last resort to discipline children once everything else fails, while 9% are undecided (Graphic 9).

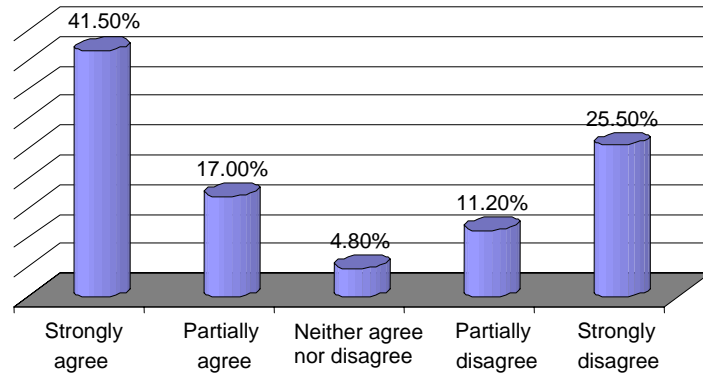
Beliefs concerning the types of corporal punishment that can be used

From the interviews with parents, it was evidenced the opinion that, corporal punishment not only should be used in a limited way, but should also be moderated. According to the parents, the child shouldn't be slapped with the intention to hurt him/her, but just to scare him/her. As one of the parents said, "Hit the child, but not too much. You must not kill your child".



More than 77% of the parents think that a child can be hit by a light slap (See Graphic 10). This percentage is visibly higher than the percentage of the teachers agreeing with this statement (58%).

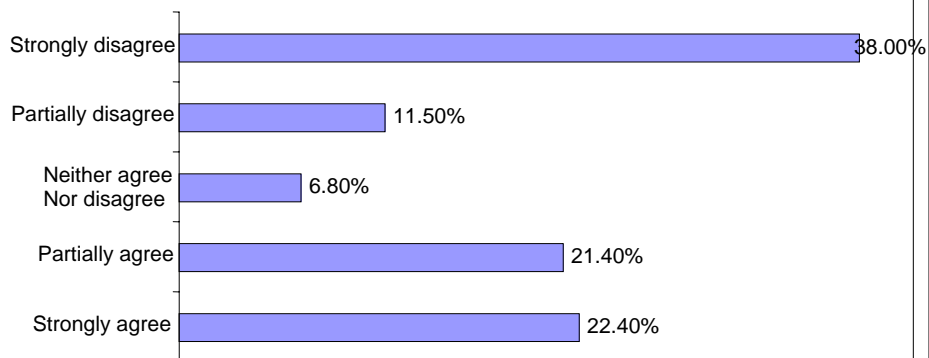
Graphic 11 There will not be any harm for the child if you slap him/her or pull his/her ear



More than 58% of the parents agree with the idea that a light slap will do no harm to the child (See Graphic 11).

Beliefs concerning corporal punishment perpetrators

Graphic 12 A parent is allowed to slap the child but the teacher no (parents in total)



More than 43% of the parents agree with the idea that parents are allowed to slap their children, but teachers no, 6.8% are undecided, while more than 49% do not agree with this idea (See Graphic 12). As shown by the data, parents are divided in two main groups regarding the issue of who has the right to hit the child: whether the parent or the teacher. Some of the parents consider their children as their property, and this, in their opinion, gives them the right to slap them. According to the parents, no one has the right to intervene when a parent is slapping his/her own child. There are other parents, who think that the teacher has also the right to slap the child, and this belief is based on the other believe that “who hits the child, does it for his/her best”.

"Parents have more rights to slap the child, because he/she is *their* child. The teacher has no the same right, because the child is not his/hers".

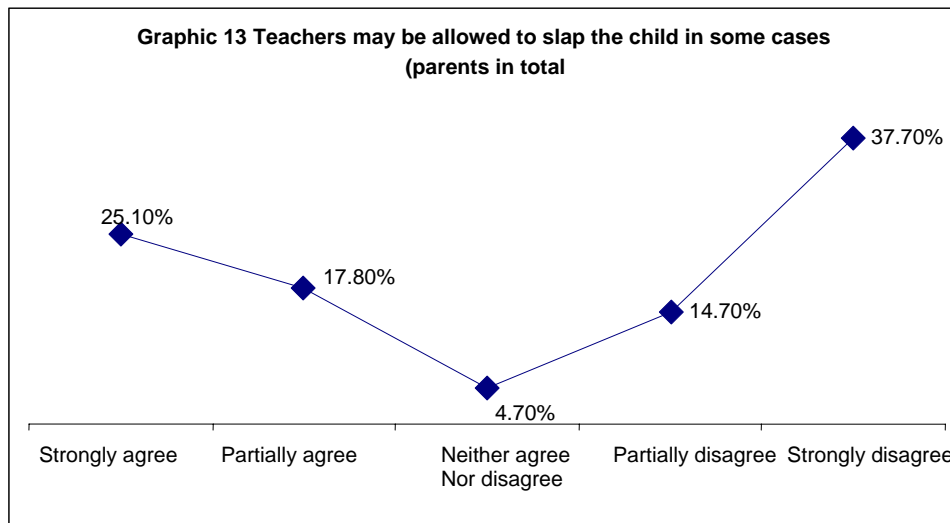
50-year old mother

"I have the right to slap my child, because he/she belongs to me. I send my child to school to learn, not to be slapped".

50-year old Roma parent

"I send my child to school so that he can be educated and the teacher makes him have some fear. I don't want the teacher to hit him to death, but I accept a light slap for his best. The teacher has the same right I as parent have to slap my child. No one agrees in beating the child to death, but a light slap or pulling his/her ear is necessary just to make him be afraid. We are men, and still when we make mistakes we are pulled by our ears".

45-year old father



About 40% of the parents think that in some cases the teacher is also allowed to slap the child (Graphic 13).

"The teacher can also use violence, because he has 30 children. I have only one child, and I slap him.

26-year old mother

Beliefs concerning the use of corporal punishment by age and gender

From the interviews with parents it was identified the belief that it is more appropriate to use physical violence against the littler children. This is because little children do not understand when you talk to them and so they can only be disciplined through the fear induced by punishment. Also, according to parents, corporal punishment is more effective when the child is at an early age, because it is when a child's personality is formed. The child must understand his/her mistakes since an early age, because later, when he grows up, corporal punishment has no effect. According to a parent, "you must slap the child while he/she is at an early age, because it is at that age that he/she creates his/her understanding about things". In addition to this reason, parents also mention the fact that when children are older, they might hit you back if you slap them.

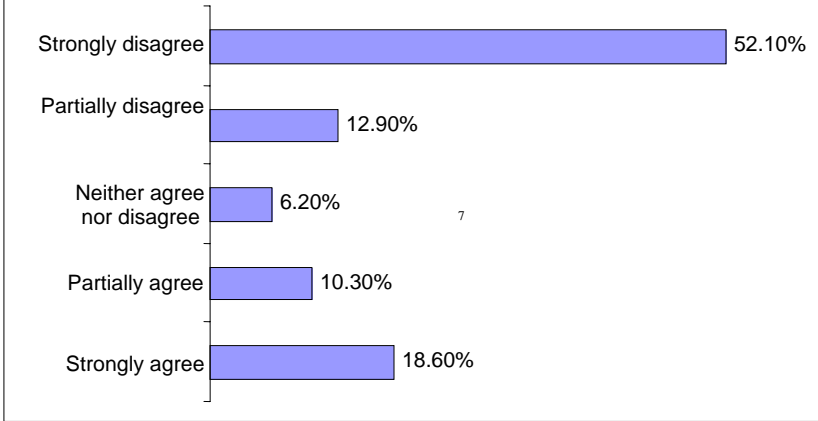
"Starting from the fifth grade, you should not slap the child anymore, because he/she understands you if you speak to him, and also because he can get hurt. But, before the fifth grade yes (you can slap the child) because he still doesn't understand you when you talk to him. Until the child turns 10, he/she must know a little fear, because he/she doesn't understand otherwise. So, you must slap him/her once in order for him/her to be afraid. After 13, the child starts to understand, but he/she doesn't know the fear anymore".

45-year old father

"When they go to the fifth grade, I don't like teachers to pull their ear. The child is already grown up and may be offended. While, it is good to pull the ear of the little ones, they are less sensitive and don't understand".

38-year old parent

Graphic 14 Younger children do not understand when you talk to them, therefore they must be slapped; while the older ones understand when you talk to them, so they shouldn't be slapped

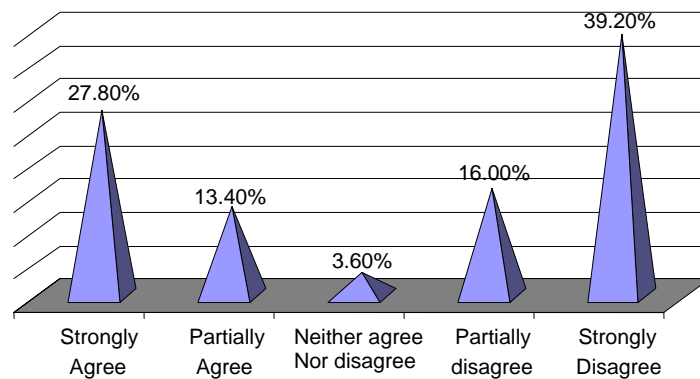


About 29% of the parents interviewed agreed with the idea that little children do not understand when you talk to them, and that is who they must be slapped (Graphic 14).

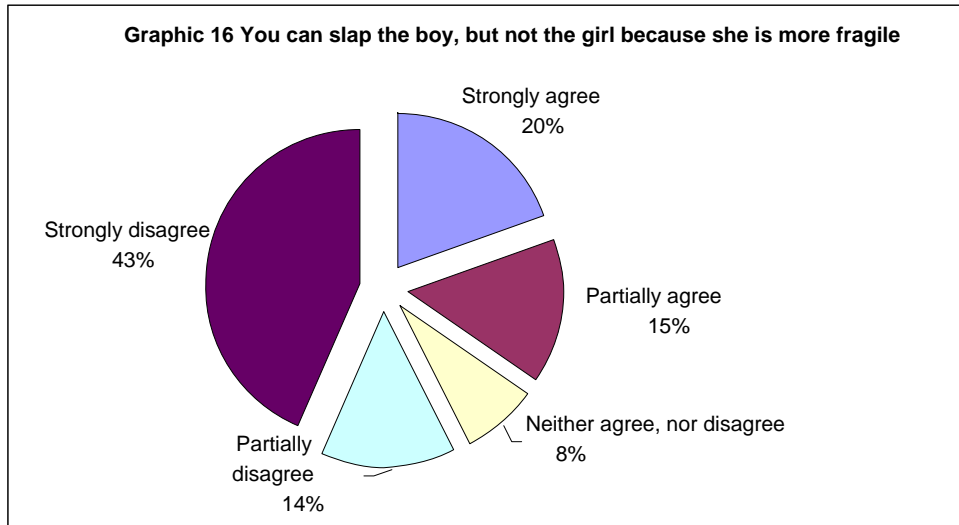
“In primary school it is easier to slap them, while in secondary it is different. In secondary school children understand and talk more. Children grow up and change. Now children are taller than us and may answer back”.

45-year old teacher

Graphic 15 You can slap younger children but not the older ones, because they get hurt



Data reveal that the belief that older children may get hurt if they are slapped and younger children no is significantly more diffused among parents. More than 40% of the parents interviewed agreed with this statement (Graphic 15).



At a significantly high percentage is also encountered the belief that you can easier slap a boy than a girl, because the boy makes more mistakes, is stronger and more resistant, while the girl is more vulnerable and may get hurt if she is slapped. As shown in Graphic 16, 35% of the parents agree with this statement, while 8% are undecided (See Graphic 16).

Conclusions and recommendations

Among the parents of “AAA BBB” school in Durrës, “XXX XXX” school in Elbasan and “WWW XXX” kindergarten in Elbasan a complex of unfounded beliefs concerning corporal punishment are diffused. Some of these beliefs are diffused at a worrying level (i.e. the belief that a child must always obey to the parents, the belief of corporal punishment as the expression of parental love, the belief that corporal punishment is something more severe and a slap is not corporal punishment, the belief that corporal punishment is applicable if the child exaggerates, the belief on the unquestionable role of fear in disciplining a child, the belief that it is more appropriate to slap the younger children because they don’t understand when you talk to them, the belief that a child is property of his/her parents, etc.). As a consequence of these beliefs and other ungrounded beliefs diffused at a relatively lower level, 1 in 2 parents thinks that they have the right to slap their children and, according to these parents, teachers have almost the same rights to do that. All these beliefs form the ground for the corporal punishment that is practiced in these schools, where according to a survey, it is too much diffused. It is indispensable to address these beliefs. For this purpose, I recommend:

1. Awareness raising campaign for the parents’ community of these institutions called “Never hit your child!” This campaign must be extended in time and I think it must focus on milder forms of corporal punishment such as slapping, hair pulling, ear pulling and pinching and not on severe forms of violence, because, as identified from the interviews, none of the parents accepts severe corporal punishment, but at the same time they do not understand that a slap or an ear pulling may be harmful for the child as well. The campaign may include meetings with the parents during which to announce the launching of the campaign; distribution of informing materials such as leaflets and the designation of a brochure where to explain in a simple and concrete way the consequences of corporal punishment (even of the mildest forms of punishment) on the child’s personality. What’s important is to include in this campaign both children and teachers.
2. Delivery of trainings to the parents regarding the consequences of corporal punishment on children and the alternative ways of disciplining.
3. Home visit programs to raise parents’ awareness regarding the consequences of corporal punishment and the alternative methodologies of disciplining.

Appendix 1

Beliefs regarding corporal punishment exerted by parents, arranged and divided by schools.

Below there are two tables showing the percentages of the various beliefs of parents with regards to corporal punishment, divided by schools. The tables allow a comparison between the parents of the two schools with regards to the various beliefs. In addition, they are necessary because they can be used as bases with which to compare the new data that will be collected through the replication of the same survey in both schools after the interventions on parents have taken place.

Table 2 : Beliefs concerning corporal punishment exerted by the parents of “AAA BBB” School in Dures

How much do you agree with the statements below?	Strongly Agree	Partially Agree	Neither agree Nor disagree	Partially Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Who hits the child, does it for his/her best	34.4%	21.5%	8.6%	6.5%	29.0%
2. It is better to pull a child's ear or slap him/her, than to insult him/her	41.8%	22.0%	11.0%	15.4%	9.9%
3. The child cannot be educated if he/she doesn't feel some fear	37.8%	12.2%	4.4%	8.9%	36.7%
4. Slapping or pulling a child's ear will not do him/her any harm	46.2%	16.5%	3.3%	8.8%	25.3%
5. It is allowed to slap the child when he/she exaggerates	33.0%	15.4%	5.5%	14.3%	31.9%
6. If you don't slap the child, he/she will be out of control	25.0%	14.1%	6.5%	14.1%	39.1%
7. If you talk to the child and he/she doesn't obey, then you should slap him/her	20.2%	12.4%	7.9%	18.0%	41.6%
8. A good child always obeys to his/her parents	76.9%	11.0%	1.1%	5.5%	5.5%
9. The child can be hit, but only by light slaps	54.9%	26.4%	2.2%	7.7%	8.8%
10. Younger children do not understand you when you talk to them, that's why you have to slap them; while the older ones do understand	18.5%	9.8%	10.9%	15.2%	45.7%
11. Corporal punishment (hitting, slapping) is a good way to discipline a child	14.0%	4.3%	1.1%	15.1%	65.6%
12. Corporal punishment is the only way to discipline some children	13.0%	10.9%	8.7%	23.9%	43.5%
13. Corporal punishment can be used as the last resort to discipline children once everything else fails	34.4%	17.8%	7.8%	13.3%	26.7%
14. Hitting turns a child into a decent human being	14.3%	6.6%	3.3%	13.2%	62.6%
15. Corporal punishment of children is acceptable in some specific cases,	22.8%	16.3%	15.2%	23.9%	21.7%

16.	as an exception A child do not understand you when you talk to him/her, that's why you should slap him/her	14.1%	9.8%	6.5%	20.7%	48.9%
17.	A parent is allowed to slap the child, the teacher no	26.1%	21.7%	8.7%	7.6%	35.9%
18.	You can smack the boy in case he is disobedient, but not the girl as she is fragile and can be hurt	23.9%	13.0%	8.7%	15.2%	39.1%
19.	You can give a slap to little children, but you cannot do that with older ones, because they may get hurt	23.7 %	12.9%	4.3%	20.4%	38.7%
20.	Children make mistakes, that's why they should be slapped	17.2%	14.0%	7.5%	7.5%	53.8%
21.	Mothers are more justified than fathers when hitting the child	25.0%	19.6%	7.6%	14.1%	33.7%
22.	Teachers are allowed to slap the child in some specific cases	29.3%	21.7%	5.4%	13.0%	30.4%
23.	Teachers are allowed to slap their own children, but not their students at school	24.2%	27.5%	9.9%	11.0%	27.5%
24.	Corporal punishment of children is absolutely harmful	72.2%	8.9%	2.2%	3.3%	13.3%
25.	Corporal punishment of children should be banned completely	69.2%	12.1%	4.4%	6.6%	7.7%

Table 3 Beliefs concerning corporal punishment exerted by the parents of “XXX XXX” School and “WWW XXX” kindergarten in Elbasan

How much do you agree with the statements below?	Strongly Agree	Partially Agree	Neither agree Nor disagree	Partially Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Who hits the child, does it for his/her best	32.7%	14.9%	2.0%	9.9%	40.6%
2. It is better to pull a child's ear or slap him/her, than to insult him/her	35.0%	17.0%	8.0%	12.0%	28.0%
3. The child cannot be educated if he/she doesn't feel some fear	22.7%	13.4%	3.1%	13.4%	47.4%
4. Slapping or pulling a child's ear will not do him/her any harm	37.1%	17.5%	6.2%	13.4%	25.8%
5. It is allowed to slap the child when he/she exaggerates	18.9%	14.7%	3.2%	16.8%	46.3%
6. If you don't slap the child, he/she will be out of control	22.1%	7.4%	5.3%	14.7%	50.5%
7. If you talk to the child and he/she doesn't obey, then you should slap him/her	17.7%	7.3%	7.3%	19.8%	47.9%
8. A good child always obeys to his/her parents	59.0%	23.0%	4.0%	11.0%	3.0%
9. The child can be hit, but only by light slaps	44.0%	30.0%	4.0%	11.0%	11.0%

10.	Younger children do not understand you when you talk to them, that's why you have to slap them; while the older ones do understand	18.6%	10.8%	2.0%	10.8%	57.8%
11.	Corporal punishment (hitting, slapping) is a good way to discipline a child	16.7%	5.9%	2.0%	7.8%	67.6%
12.	Corporal punishment is the only way to discipline some children	13.4%	11.3%	7.2%	11.3%	56.7%
13.	Corporal punishment can be used as the last resort to discipline children once everything else fails	18.2%	16.2%	10.1%	13.1%	42.4%
14.	Hitting turns a child into a decent human being	10.0%	6.0%	1.0%	10.0%	73.0%
15.	Corporal punishment of children is acceptable in some specific cases, as an exception	13.9%	16.8%	15.8%	26.7%	26.7%
16.	A child do not understand you when you talk to him/her, that's why you should slap him/her	7.8%	8.8%	4.9%	17.6%	60.8%
17.	A parent is allowed to slap the child, the teacher no	19.0%	21.0%	5.0%	15.0%	40.0%
18.	You can smack the boy in case he is disobedient, but not the girl as she is fragile and can be hurt	15.6%	16.7%	7.3%	12.5%	47.9%
19.	You can give a slap to little children, but you cannot do that with older ones, because the latter may get hurt	31.7 %	13.9%	3.0%	11.9%	39.6%
20.	Children make mistakes, that's why they should be slapped	15.7%	9.8%	7.8%	9.8%	55.9%
21.	Mothers are more justified than fathers when hitting the child	19.8%	19.8%	5.0%	18.8%	36.6%
22.	Teachers are allowed to slap the child in some specific cases	21.2%	14.1%	4.0%	16.2%	44.4%
23.	Teachers are allowed to slap their own children, but not their students at school	26.3%	22.2%	3.0%	10.1%	38.4%
24.	Corporal punishment of children is absolutely harmful	61.6%	6.1%	5.1%	3.0%	24.2%
25.	Corporal punishment of children should be banned completely	65.0%	11.0%	5.0%	4.0%	15.0%

Appendix 2

Instrument of the survey

Questionnaire

Dear parents,

The following questionnaire serves to identify the opinions concerning children's disciplining. This questionnaire is being applied with teachers and parents in various districts of Albania. You have been chosen as one of the relevant persons to fill it in.

Please, be honest in answering the questions. The information you will provide will remain completely confidential and will only be used for research reasons by Save the Children in Albania.

Thank you for your collaboration

Statements	Circle or check only one for each statement				
1. Whoever smacks you (the child), loves you (the child)	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
2. It is better to slap or pull the ear of the child than to shout or yell at him/her.	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
3. You can hit the child as long as he/she is frightened by you but not to (physically) harm/damage.	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
4. The child cannot be educated without being afraid of adults (parents/teachers)	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
5. It is not harmful to the child, if you smacks or pull his/her ear once a while.	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
6. It is permissible to slap the child once he/she deserves it (gives you hard time).	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
7. Should you not smack the child, s/he is disobedient (naughty).	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
8. If you talk to the child and s/he fails to listen to you, then you may smack him/her.	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)

9. A good child always listens to his/her parents	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
10. The child can be hit, but only very mildly	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
11. Little children do not obey/behave, that's why they may be smacked/spanked, but adults listen to when talking to them	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
12. Corporal punishment is a good way of disciplining	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
13. Corporal punishment is the only means to discipline some children	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
14. Corporal punishment can be used as the last resort to discipline children once everything else fails.	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
15. Beating makes you a real man	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
16. Corporal punishment of children is acceptable at least as exception in some cases	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
17. The child does not obey by words, that's why s/he can be smacked	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
18. A parent is allowed to smack his/her child, but the teacher is not	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
19. You can smack the boy in case he is disobedient, but not the girl as she is fragile and can be hurt.	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
20. You can give a slap to little children, but you cannot do that with older ones.	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)

21. The child makes mistakes, that's why s/he should be smacked	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
22. Mothers are more justified than fathers when hitting the child	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
23. The teacher can be allowed to smack the student in few limited cases	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
24. The teacher can be allowed to smack his/her own child, but not allowed at all to hit the students in school	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
25. Both, shouting and smacking are harmful	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
26. Corporal punishment of children is completely harmful	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
27. Corporal punishment of children should be banned completely	Strongly Agree (5)	Partially Agree (4)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Partially Disagree (2)	Strongly Disagree (1)
28. Gender:	Male (1)	Female (2)			
29. Age	Up to 25 years old (1)	26-39 years old (2)	40-49 years old (3)	50-59 years old (4)	Over 60