

ABSTRACT

Over the past decades, there has been a heated debate on whether corporal punishment should be allowed or banned amongst the parents as there is a close connection between corporal punishment and child abuse due to its lack of definite meaning between light and grave punishment. In Malaysia, the use of corporal punishment by parents is a prevalent phenomenon and lawful to discipline their children's behaviours, as it is allowed under the Penal Code and the Child Act 2001. Hence, it is now the time for the laws on corporal punishment to be repealed to prohibit corporal punishment of children by parents with lawful authority over children. However, the suggestion to criminalise the act of caning children does not sit well with the culture, customs and religion in Malaysia. Thus, this research does not seek to abolish corporal punishment, but rather to restrict its usage under the Penal Code and the Child Act 2001 so that parents do not harm their children in the name of discipline. This issue was chosen because, despite the fact that approximately 100 children die each year as a result of corporal punishment, there is insufficient research on this subject in Malaysia. The findings of this research will contribute to the body of literature on laws regulating physical punishment of children at home in Malaysia. Furthermore, this research will benefit the parents in applying the standard methods in disciplining children through physical punishment, as well as the children, as their right to live in a safer environment has been acknowledged. Information obtained from this research is beneficial to the individuals, researchers, institution, community and enforcement officers for the advancement of knowledge, future practice and law enforcement.