

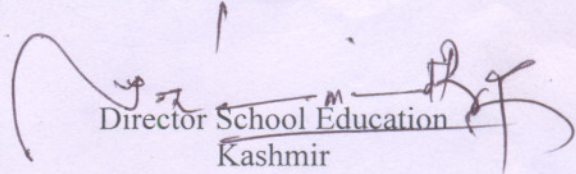
C I R C U L A R

Corporal Punishment carries the potential of impairing the trust bonds between the teachers and students, besides being apt to cause delinquency and mental health problems among the abused children. Corporal punishment is also generally perceived to be responsible for children getting shy, feeling insecure, becoming resentful or even violent.

The **Hon'ble Supreme Court of India**, it may be recalled, banned Corporal Punishment in Schools way back in 2000. Also the **Hon'ble High Court of Delhi** has held that **children should be allowed to acquire education with dignity and in an atmosphere free from fear of punishment, physical or otherwise.**

With this backdrop, coupled with the fact that corporal punishment tends to impinge on the children's **rights in education**, it becomes expedient that teachers avoid resort to rod and, instead, explore **options** like **consultation, conciliation and counseling.** Interestingly, the guidelines issued by the **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** perceive acts of scolding students or calling them "stupid" or "mindless" in Class as tantamount to **crime.** And, the National Curriculum Framework (**NCF-2005**) has it that corporal punishment, as also verbal and non-verbal abuse, do not only humiliate children in front of their peers but carry **long-term** detrimental effects on children's over-all development, self esteem and their interest in learning.

An **obligation** is therefore cast upon the management of all Schools (**both Govt. and Private**) to ensure that students are not given any corporal punishment as that might only promote further undesirable behaviour among them rather than helping them imbibe alternate desirable behaviour.


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