Nepal 2019

Child Discipline

Types of Child Discipline

- **Only non-violent**: 14%
- **Physical punishment**:
  - Severe: 20%
  - Other types: 43%
- **Psychological aggression**: 77%
- **Any violent discipline**: 82%

Percentage of children age 1 to 14 years who experienced any violent discipline in the past month, by type

**Violent Discipline: Inequalities**

- **Rural, 84**
- **Poorest, 81**
- **None, 82**
- **Male, 83**
- **Urban, 81**
- ** Richest, 78**
- **Higher, 77**
- **Female, 81**

Percentage of children aged 1 to 14 years who experienced any violent discipline in the past month, by background characteristics

Physical punishment: Shaking, hitting or slapping a child on the hand/arm/leg, hitting on the bottom or elsewhere on the body with a hard object, spanking or hitting on the bottom with a bare hand, hitting or slapping on the face, head or ears, and hitting or beating hard and repeatedly.

Severe physical punishment: Hitting or slapping a child on the face, head or ears, and hitting or beating a child hard and repeatedly.

Psychological aggression: Shouting, yelling or screaming at a child, as well as calling a child offensive names such as ‘dumb’ or ‘lazy’.

**Violent discipline**: Any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression.

Key Messages

- Overall, 82% of children aged 1-14 years have experienced at least one form of physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past one month. These data are alarming and indicate an urgent need to protect children from such violence. Only 14% of children have experienced non-violent discipline.

- Among children who have faced violent discipline, 77% have experienced psychological aggression and 63% have experienced physical punishment, with 20% experiencing severe physical punishment.

- Violent child discipline is ubiquitous in Nepal. The latest MICS data on violence indicate a slight difference between children living in urban and rural households (81% and 84% respectively). The difference between children experiencing violence in the poorest and richest households is also small (81% and 78% respectively). Education attainments of mothers/caretakers do not seem to play an influential role as 82% of children whose mothers/caretakers have no education experience violence in comparison to 77% of children with mothers/caretakers who have higher educational attainment.

- Age patterns suggest that violent discipline increases among children between the ages of 1 to 9 experience more, yet it decreases to some degree as children become older.

- While only 23% of mothers/caregivers believed that physical punishment is a necessary part of child-rearing, 63% of children experienced any physical punishment.

- Mothers/caretakers with higher levels of education (8%) and from the richest households (13%) are less likely to believe that physical punishment is necessary in raising a child than are mothers with no education (30%) and from the poorest households (32%).
The Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) was carried out in 2019 by the Central Bureau of Statistics as part of the global MICS programme. Technical support was provided by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF and Government of Nepal provided financial support.

The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Nepal MICS 2019 related to Child Discipline. Data from this snapshot can be found in tables PR.2.1 and PR.2.2 in the Survey Findings Report.

Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on mics.unicef.org/surveys.