

Chinese Parents and Awareness Regarding Child Abuse

– Questionnaire responses by parents of primary school students in Heilongjiang Province

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The purpose of this study is to explore what awareness and behavior Chinese parents may have and the differences and relevance among them with regard to the issue of child abuse.

For this study, a questionnaire survey was carried out on the 240 parents of children in grade six at a primary school. The results show that, in order to urge children to study, parents that engage in corporal punishment with their children amount to almost 40%. In addition, although they know that there is no need to engage in corporal punishment with their children, 8.7% of all the parents still do. These parents are not aware that their behavior is considered abuse, hence they engage in corporal punishment. The above results show that the parents have very poor awareness regarding what constitutes abuse. Due to living in a society that places utmost importance on academic achievement, parents engage in corporal punishment with their children involuntarily while educating them. Therefore, the traditional culture of home-based education mixed with modern society, which places utmost importance on academic achievement, has led to a situation where corporal punishment is tolerated and where there is the frequent occurrence of child abuse at the same time.