THE ROLE OF PUNISHMENT IN EDUCATION

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Abstract: Punishment as a means of correcting behavior is a common practice in schools, but it is not clear how effective it is in the educational context. This article reviews the literature on the effectiveness of punishment in education and argues that punishment should not be the sole means of correction. Instead, it should be used in conjunction with other teaching methods such as positive reinforcement, problem-solving, and communication. The article also discusses the potential negative consequences of punishment in education, such as creating a culture of fear and anxiety, leading to a lack of trust and cooperation, and creating a cycle of punishment and retaliation. The article concludes that punishment can be a useful tool in education if it is used in an evidence-based and consistent manner, and in conjunction with other teaching methods.

Key words: *punishment, correcting behavior, consequences, education, discipline, underlying causes.*

The use of punishment as a means of correcting behavior is widespread in society. Children are often disciplined for misbehaving by having their toys taken away, while adults face consequences for committing infractions. Punishment is seen as a way to eliminate or prevent negative or unacceptable behaviors. However, the effectiveness of punishment in education is a topic that has been debated. This article aims to explore the consequences of punishment in the educational context and determine whether it is a useful tool for teaching. Of course, education is an important issue that should be based on scientific criteria rather than concrete experiences or individual opinions. It is crucial to have a systematic approach to education, as it ensures that the practices used are evidence-based and effective.

This is important in order to ensure that students receive the best possible education and are able to achieve their full potential. Scientific research can help identify the best practices for teaching and learning, and help educators make informed decisions about how to improve the educational process. By relying on scientific criteria, we can ensure that education is based on evidence and not just personal beliefs or anecdotes. That is a great approach. Empirical data is a valuable tool for understanding the effectiveness of punishment in education, as it allows us to see the real-world outcomes of different punishment methods. By analyzing data from studies and experiments, we can determine whether punishment is a useful tool for teaching and learning, and what the potential consequences of using punishment in education might be. This can help educators make informed decisions about how to best educate students and create a positive learning environment.

Additionally, empirical data can help policymakers and educational institutions understand the effectiveness of different punishment policies and make informed decisions about how to best serve the needs of students. Most schools will strive for a balance between positive and punishing discipline. This is evident in the use of point systems, where points can be deducted for bad behavior (similar to driving licenses) and also awarded for good behavior. This approach allows children to redeem themselves and encourages them to improve their behavior rather than feeling discouraged by a definite punishment. Some schools, particularly British ones, use the point system only for rewards, while others, often more traditional French ones, use points solely as a form of punishment. In progressive education, which is promoted in International, British and American schools, discipline can be maintained without resorting to punishment. Instead, the focus is on catching students in the act of good behavior and praising them for it. Research has shown that praising children for good behavior can reverse negative behavior. Praising boosts self-esteem, making individuals more likely to be tolerant of others, calm, and willing to comply. On the other hand, punishment instills fear and aims to force students to conform and obey, but it does not necessarily help educate them. Punishment and negative feedback demotivate people.

Teachers strive to understand the underlying causes of behavior in individual children because sometimes it can lead to a deeper issue that requires attention rather than punishment. In modern times, corporal punishment is less common, and the old-fashioned method of writing a hundred times what one must not do is now rare and doesn't teach students anything. Sanctions are more often in the form of detention, which serves as an opportunity for reflection and a cooling off period. For example, detention given for missed homework can help the student take responsibility for their own learning. Furthermore, punishment should not be used as the sole means of correction in education, as it may not be effective in all situations. Instead, it should be used in conjunction with other teaching methods such as positive reinforcement, problem-solving, and communication. This can help to create a more well-rounded learning experience and ensure that students are able to develop the skills they need to succeed in the future. Additionally, punishment should be used in a way that is consistent with the educational goals of the school or institution, and should not be used as a way to punish students for things that are not related to their education. It's also important to consider the potential negative consequences of punishment in education. Punishment can create a culture of fear and anxiety, where students are afraid of making mistakes and are more likely to avoid learning altogether. It can also lead to a lack of trust and cooperation between teachers, students, and parents. Additionally, punishment can create a cycle of punishment and retaliation, where students are more likely to engage in negative behaviors in order to retaliate against the perceived punishment. Additionally, punishment can have negative consequences for learners.

Research has shown that punishment can create a fear of failure and make learners less likely to engage in learning activities. It can also lead to a lack of trust and cooperation in the classroom, as learners may feel that punishment is unfair or arbitrary. Instead of punishment, educators should focus on positive reinforcement and creating a supportive learning environment that encourages students to take risks and learn from their mistakes. By doing so, they can help students develop the skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. It is important to note that punishment should not be the only tool used to discipline students. Instead, it should be part of a comprehensive approach to discipline that includes positive reinforcement, communication, and understanding the underlying causes of behavior. By using a combination of these tools, teachers can help students learn from their mistakes and improve their behavior, rather than simply punishing them. Additionally, it is important for educators to be trained in effective discipline techniques and to understand the potential consequences of punishment on students. By using evidence-based practices, educators can create a positive learning environment and help students reach their full potential.

In conclusion, punishment can be a useful tool in education, but it should be used in a way that is evidence-based and consistent with the educational goals of the school or institution. It should be used in conjunction with other teaching methods and should not be used as the sole means of correction. It's also important to consider the potential negative consequences of punishment in education and to strive for a positive learning environment.

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