Corporal punishment: similarities and differences from Eastern cultured countries

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Background
Socio-cultural factors are important factors which shape growth and development. Parents’ aspects of punishment reflect to their behaviours. Using corporal punishment to discipline children have been an issue for decades, however effects of corporal punishment on children health is more to be interested of. To evaluate corporal punishment point of view at two different eastern cultured countries, Turkey and Pakistani.

Methods
This is a qualitative descriptive study with a sample of 675 (464 Turkish, 211 Pakistani parents who have 10 years or lower aged child at the survey time) parents. The evaluation protocol includes 2 forms consist of same questions, one is Turkish, the other is in English. Regression analyze and SPSS 20.0 was used at analyses.

Results
Socio-demographical features were similar at both study group. We found that there are similarities between countries but there was also differences at corporal punishment point of view. Pakistani parents think that, some physical punishment such as pulling ear (42.4%), hitting (37.1%) can be used to discipline the child. If they misbehave (26.8%), deserve punishment (21.5%), then they can be hit. Also they think that, physical punishment is a good way to discipline child (47.4%), teach discipline (47.1%) and the only way (33.0%). Nearly half of them (54.4%) think that CP is the last method to discipline child. Turkish parents think that children must have fear from parents (40.6%), if deserve punishment can be hit (34.1%), can be hit slowly (30.2%). There is a big group at both countries who don’t think that CP must be totally banned. All parameters given above were statistically significant (p < 0.001). Parent education and deserving punishment were related to CP use (p < 0.05).

Conclusion
Although both countries are at east part of the world and have similar structure (culture, religion); and similar though for corporal punishment, but the levels of acceptance for corporal punishment perception were different. The social indicators have an important role on public behaviors and expressions.

Key messages:
- Parent education and norms of a country is important at child growth, however similar cultures and religions can show different habits
- Corporal Punishment is a kind of abuse and violence however parents are not aware of the situation, and they use corporal punishment to discipline children