

### Abstract

The present study identified the reasons why well-educated parents in Mainland China use corporal punishment towards their children in a qualitative method. The result turns out that, Chinese parents use corporal punishment mostly due to parenting factors and environmental stressors. Parenting factors consist of parent's concern for children's welfare, parent's concern for their own reputation of being a good parent, and the usefulness of corporal punishment. Environmental stressors include work pressure, role conflict, incomplete social welfare system, and social comparison. At the same time, Chinese parents can get more support from social supporting networks. These findings shed lights on the fact that potential intervention programs should target on corporal punishment, which is still commonly used by parents with a high educational level in Mainland China.

*Keywords:* well-educated parents, corporal punishment, parenting factors, environmental stressors