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Punishment for 8-year old girl who was made to kneel on embers not acceptable-Save the Children Philippines

Save the Children Philippines raised concern on the situation of an 8-year old girl who was made to kneel on embers, saying physical and humiliating punishments have devastating impact on children.

Lawyer Albert Muyot, Chief Executive Officer of Save the Children Philippines said hurting children- through physical and psychological means - are never acceptable as they could lead to permanent and harsh results, including death.

“What the eight year old little girl from Zamboanga Del Sur experienced in the hands of her mother clearly constitutes child abuse,” said Muyot.

He lamented that the practice of physical and humiliating punishment is acceptable to many Filipino parents. The girl’s parents were reported to be in the habit of beating their children.

“Every year, corporal punishment kills thousands of children around the world, and injures and handicaps many more,” said Muyot.

In the Philippines, three out of five children suffer from physical violence, most of which happen at home and in the hands of their parents and caregivers, based on the results of the 2016 National Baseline Study on Violence Against Children published by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC).

The study indicated that corporal punishments in the home include spanking with a bare hand, rolled paper or small stick, and pulling the hair, pinching or twisting of ears. Other forms of severe forms of abuse are slapping, kicking, smothering, tying, drowning and burning,

He said children who suffer from physical and humiliating punishment may develop violent behavior. Save the Children Philippines is advocating Positive Discipline that promotes stronger bond and open communication between children and parents.

The group conducts Positive Discipline trainings for parents and teachers to ensure that children do not suffer from physical and humiliating forms of punishments.

“Discipline is not the same as punishments, but rather teaching and guiding them in ways that make them feel loved and respected,” said Muyot.

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