

Guidelines for Elimination of Corporal Punishment (GECP)

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Tamil Nadu Education Department released **Guidelines for Elimination of Corporal Punishment (GECP)**.



[Ref: TH]

About Corporal Punishment:

- Corporal punishment involves **physical force** intended to cause pain or discomfort, no matter how mild it may be.
- Common methods include **hitting** with hands, sticks, belts, and shoes. Other forms are kicking, scratching, pinching, biting, and pulling hair.
- Beyond physical acts, it includes **mental abuse** such as humiliating, degrading, scaring, or threatening a child.
- The **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009** in India strictly prohibits both physical and mental forms of punishment.
 - These actions are punishable under the law, as outlined in **Section 17(1) and 17(2)**.

Indian Laws on Corporal Punishment:

Constitutional Provisions:

- **Article 21:** Guarantees the right to life and dignity, which includes the right to education free from corporal punishment, as abuse infringes on these rights.
- **Article 39:** Mandates state protection of children from abuse and exploitation, ensuring healthy development and safeguarding against material and moral abandonment.

Other Laws:

- **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009:** Outlaws physical punishment and mental harassment, making such acts punishable.
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000:** Sections 23 and 75 set penalties for physical or mental harm inflicted on children by caretakers.
- **Indian Penal Code (IPC):** Relevant sections apply to physical harm to children, enhancing accountability.

- **Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989:** Protects against caste-based corporal punishment.
- **Section 89 of IPC vs. Section 23 of the Juvenile Justice Act:** Clarifies that the Juvenile Justice Act, as a special law, overrides the IPC in cases of conflict regarding child protection.