

Editor's Note

Dear readers,

We are pleased to welcome you to the April 2016 CRPF quarterly newsletter. This edition brings to you a summary of new policy paper on corporal punishment and some useful summaries of research pieces presented at the CRPF monthly seminars. We look forward to your comments, suggestions, and contributions. For more information, please contact us via crpf.ethiopia@gmail.com or 011-1-54-01-05/21.



New Policy Paper

Corporal Punishment in Schools: Longitudinal Evidence from Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam

María José Ogando Portela and KIRRILY Pells

This paper was written drawing on data from the Young Lives longitudinal study in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam to examine the prevalence of corporal punishment and what this means for children.

Key findings:

Corporal punishment is highly prevalent despite legal prohibition. More than half of children aged 8 in Peru and Vietnam, three-quarters in Ethiopia and almost all children in India witnessed a teacher administering corporal punishment in the last week.

- Violence in schools, including physical and verbal abuse by teachers and peers, is the foremost reason children give for disliking school.
- Boys are significantly more likely to experience corporal punishment than girls. However, girls are often at greater risk of other forms of humiliating treatment and sexual violence.

- Children from poorer households are significantly more likely to be punished than their better-off peers.

- Corporal punishment affects children's learning levels. The average negative effect is of similar size to the caregiver (usually mother) having about three to six years less education.

The paper concludes that corporal punishment can have long-lasting implications for their life-chances by reducing their engagement with schooling and capacity to learn.

It calls for a concerted effort by addressing gender and social norms and with appropriate legislation and teacher training to tackle violence affecting children to build safe, supportive and enabling environments for all children to flourish.

Access full paper here: <http://www.younglives.org.uk/node/6729>.



Research Summaries

Children's Agency in Responding to Shocks and Adverse Events in Ethiopia Nardos Chuta

Purpose

The paper aims to explore children's experiences of shocks and their coping mechanisms.

Methodology

The paper used a qualitative method supplemented by descriptive survey statistics to provide background information. It draws on Young Lives data, including data from two qualitative sub-studies carried out in 2009 and 2010.

Findings

Findings from the qualitative research are presented from three perspectives: Experiences of shocks, the agency [resilience] of children in dealing with the impacts of shocks and sustainability (Agency as short-term trade-offs).

Experiences of shocks

In general, shocks result in different outcomes, which may be temporary or permanent. Some of the outcomes revolve around children's well-being, schooling and work. *Adverse events such as parental ill health, absence, death and divorce and children's health shocks* lead to unmet material and emotional needs.

Extra responsibilities for children as a result of shocks

Parents' or caregivers' sickness worries children not only because it denies them their material needs but also because it makes them contribute to the needs of other household members by engaging in paid work and household works that take up the time they would have spent on school and study as well as making them drop out of school.

The agency (resilience) of children in coping with the impacts of shocks

The main contribution children make is through their work, whether paid or unpaid. These include: fishing, growing vegetables, taxi assistants, doing public works, selling firewood and planting seedlings.

Sustainability ? Agency as short-term trade-offs

The way children make decisions about their family situations and also their own life has a lasting effect. Some of children's coping strategies are either ineffective or create harmful consequences. For example, short-term school drop-out has long-term consequences due to its irreversibility. Rationing food and eating less so there would be enough for whole family could have serious consequences for children's health, with potentially long-lasting effects.

Engaging in paid work when family lost production due to absence of rain, children sustain work related injury and sickness that can have a lasting effect. Most of children's coping mechanisms are informal risk-coping arrangements and strategies which might work well only for certain types of risks, i.e. household -level risks. Thus, some forms of crisis may account for limitations in children's resilience.

Conclusion and recommendations

- Children's experience of shocks is a threat to their well-being and education. It is therefore essential that protection mechanisms need to consider how children experience shock, not just how households experience them as the degree of its impact varies according to age, gender and location.
- Children's short-term coping strategies were real solutions. Hence, social protection mechanisms have to consider these temporary ways of response mechanism.
- Children are seen sometimes resorting to unfavourable short-term coping mechanisms which bring irreversible consequences. So protection programmes should consider expanding counter-cyclically during times of crisis and employing mechanisms such as a more responsive application process.
- Social protection systems should comprise a large set of formal and informal mechanisms to manage risks. This would help reduce the impact of future adverse shocks, which might otherwise perpetuate the cycle of vulnerability.

Access full research here: <http://www.younglives.org.uk/node/6695>.



Research Summaries



Household Wealth and Child Wellbeing in Tigray: One and the Same?

Keetic Roelen, Institute of Development Studies

Purpose

The paper looks into the role of interventions that improve the lives of children in breaking the cycle of inter-generational poverty through a multi-dimensional measurement. The research aims to identify:

- The extent to which different poverty measures identify different groups of children as being poor.
- The reasons for different groups of children being identified as being poor when using different measures.

Methodology

The research uses a mixed methods approach. Data from the Ethiopia Rural Household Survey (ERHS) was used for informing the sampling strategy and fieldwork instruments prior to qualitative data collection. Qualitative data was gathered from children and adults through focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and individual and group-based participatory discussions.

Findings

Preliminary findings suggest that household wealth and child wellbeing are strongly related but not necessarily the same. The quantitative analysis points towards positive correlation between household consumption and school attendance and number of meals consumed, but also indicates that not all children living in consumption poverty are deprived in terms of education or nutrition and vice versa.

The correlation between increased household wealth and child wellbeing appears strongest for the poorest children but then drops for children living in wealthier households. When using time use as an indicator of child wellbeing, the relationship reverses and higher household wealth is associated with lower child wellbeing.

The qualitative data analysis indicates that although household wealth is an important condition for ensuring child wellbeing, it is neither a necessary or sufficient condition. Early findings suggest that:

- Analysis of survey data indicates that consumption is correlated with but is not a perfect proxy for indicators of household wealth as identified by adult and children.
- It takes time for child wellbeing to catch up with improvements in household wealth. Life histories elicited from qualitative case studies illustrate that improvements in child wellbeing lag behind those in household wealth.
- Lack of infrastructure and services – particularly schools and clean water, limits the extent to which greater household wealth can be translated into improved child wellbeing.
- Opportunity costs lead to a trade-off between household wealth and child wellbeing, particularly in terms of the balance between school, work and leisure. Greater household wealth may be achieved by involving children in productive or household work, compromising child wellbeing with respect to time use.
- Parental awareness of and attitudes towards raising and educating children plays an important role in translating high or low levels of household wealth in improved child wellbeing. Qualitative findings point towards a gender dimension with 'positive' mismatch occurring more frequently in female-headed households and 'negative' mismatch being more prevalent among male-headed households.
- Qualitative findings indicate that the lack of local economic opportunities in combination with many examples of community members having gone to Saudi Arabia for work compromised children's perceptions of the value of education.

Conclusion

Getting poverty measurement right is imperative for gaining insight into the magnitude of child poverty, its manifestations and underlying causes. It lays the foundation for framing policy efforts toward the reduction of child poverty, tracking progress of such efforts and consequently feeding information back into decision-making.

Preliminary findings of this research in Tigray confirm that a combination of measures is required to identify different groups of children living in poverty and deprivation. Findings about the drivers underlying differential poverty findings also suggest that policies should consider both household-level and structural factors in their bid to reduce child poverty and deprivation.

Finally, the tension between improvements in household wealth and child wellbeing, particularly for relatively better off households, indicates that policy makers should be wary of the assumption that higher household wealth will always translate into greater child wellbeing.

Research Summaries

Good Practices and Lessons Learnt on Multi-sectoral and Multi-stakeholder Approaches in Child Protection at Adama Town of Oromia Region, Hawassa Town of SNNPR, and Addis Ababa Belay Hagos and Tirussew Teferra

Purpose

The purpose of this study was to document how community based multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approaches contribute to child protection and to identify lessons and gaps to suggest practical recommendations on ways forward.

Methodology

The study assessed child protection approaches implemented by Save the Children and the Forum on Sustainable Child Empowerment (FSCE) in Addis Ababa and Adama and by the Mary Joy Development Association (MJDA) in Hawassa.

Qualitative data was generated from interviews, focus group discussions, observations, and document reviews. Methods of data analysis included transcription of primary data and translation into English, quantitative analysis of the secondary data, thematic essence extraction and photo voice – a group analysis method combining photography with grassroots social action.

Findings

Community Based Multi-Stakeholders Approach in Child Protection

At structural level:

- Proactive measures focussed on prevention of children from various forms of violence.
- Formal and non-formal structures worked together and with the community.
- The informal structure of *Iddir* helped to make use of local wisdom – *Mekari Shimagile* (elders giving advice)– to resolve conflicts.

At community level:

- Community conversation played a pivotal role in changing the community.
- Community sense of ownership and commitment increased.

At family and children level:

- Families became economically empowered and their businesses improved. Children have been saved from various forms of labour exploitations and sexual abuse.
- Some vulnerable teenagers were supported with skills training and counselling and have been protected from labour exploitation, sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Many out of school children including working children accessed non-formal and formal school enrolment.

- Children's participation in schools and in their communities increased; schoolgirls' clubs proactively engaged to support peers.

Integrated Approach against Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

At structural level:

- Networking and coordination among child-focused organisations and sector offices in Hawassa City resulted in the smooth flow of information and a fast response to the needs of abused children.
- Organisations have worked together to develop a service directory indicating what type of services they provide.

At community level:

- MDJA ran community conversations that inspired community volunteers to become responsible for protecting children in their community.
- Members of the Coffee Ceremony were instrumental in changing the awareness of the community.
- The *Hawassa Iddir* coalition, consisting of 128 member *Iddir* Associations upgraded their bylaws to include a statement on child protection.

At family and children level:

- Fathers and elderly men were convinced to collaborate towards protecting children.
- Some mothers adopted children in especially difficult circumstances and raised them together with their own biological children.
- Some teenagers received skills training and become empowered.

Conclusion

The study identified five examples of best practice that could be replicated by other programmes aimed at scaling up these approaches in different settings.

- The coordination between target children and families and duty bearers of sector offices has resulted in better responses to the needs and rights of the target children.
- The study found that members of the community were motivated, to realise existing problems at the community level and to take initiatives to address them themselves.
- Some community members identified the lack of access to education as a priority issue, while the other community members raised child sexual abuse as an matter requiring urgent attention.
- All three approaches capitalised on the existing structures such as *Iddir* associations, peer mothers group, and sector offices.
- As a result of using community conversation tools, members of the community have begun to take ownership of child protection issues.

Photo credit: © Antonio Fiorente

Note: Pictures are not of Young Lives' research participants.