



A report for Movies that Matter by the Legal Assistance Centre

Lunchbox Cinema



Through an initiative called Lunchbox Cinema, GR&AP wishes to educate people in Namibia through the use of film. The term “Lunchbox Cinema” has been used as viewers will receive a small lunchpack to eat whilst watching the film. In this informal, enjoyable and relaxed environment we hope to promote discussion after the film about the issues screened.



Introduction



In 2010 the Gender Research and Advocacy Project produced a film on alternatives to corporal punishment, *A Betta Way*. The production of the film was funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In February 2010 a representative from the Legal Assistance Centre, Mark Nonkes, added a film festival workshop run by Movies that Matter, a branch of Amnesty International. Movies that Matter subsequently gave the LAC 5000 Euros to run a film festival to screen *A Betta Way*. The project consisted of the following components:

Phase 1: *Launch of the project by a screening at the National Theatre of Namibia, where students and teachers from secondary schools in the capital city will be invited to watch the film and participate in a discussion with the members from the film's cast and crew. A total of 300 people will attend.*

Phase 2: *Training community activists who will in turn screen the film in their communities and generate discussion about positive child discipline. Twenty activists from Windhoek will be invited for a half-day training session on positive discipline. During the training session, the film will be screened and techniques will be discussed on alternates to corporal punishment. The participants will also be taught facilitation skills that are specifically related to discussing films. Community activists will be given a copy of the DVD and training materials to take away.*

Phase 3: *Screening of the film in 2 further regions in Namibia. We will screen the film at teacher education colleges in Windhoek, Rundu (Kavango region) and Katima Mulilo (Caprivi region). The 45-minute film will be followed by an active discussion with a child right's expert from the Legal Assistance Centre and one of the film's cast/crew. A similar session will be held at one school in the Kavango and Caprivi regions.*

Supporting material: *The production of a poster about alternatives to corporal punishment.*

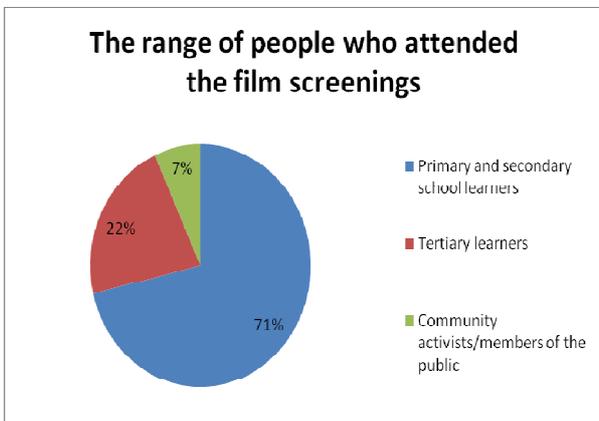
Overall in this project we screened the film 15 times to 1446 people.

Overview of the Events



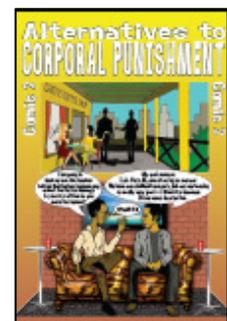
Overall, we screened the film 15 times to 1446 people. During the project, the film was also screened twice by the national television broadcaster Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC).

Phase	Number of people who attended
Phase 1	221
Phase 2	18
Phase 3	1135
2 additional screenings	72
Total	1446 (a total of 920 were expected to attend)



A total of 1446 people participated in Lunchbox Cinema events. The vast majority were secondary school learners and teachers. The events with the highest attendance were those held on school premises. The chart illustrates the type of visitors who participated in Lunchbox Cinema events.

A separate donor (the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs) provided funds for the production of two comics on alternatives to corporal punishment which were produced in three languages. These comics were distributed at the film screenings.



Phase 1 – Launch at the National Theatre of Namibia

	Total attendees	Projected attendees
Total attendees	221 learners from 6 schools	300 learners from 9 schools

The screening of the film at the National Theatre of Namibia was held on 13 July and was attended by six schools from the Khomas Region.¹ The event was also covered by One Africa, NBC television and *The Namibian* newspaper. The event was moderated by popular youth radio DJ Matilda Riruako (pictured left) who has a show every day from 2-5 pm on NBC National Radio.² The film was extremely well received and the audience was delighted to see four actors from the film take part in the discussion afterwards.



DJ Matilda Riruako, the four actors, and a representative from the LAC on stage during the discussion session

Following the screening, learners from two schools approached members from the LAC and asked for an action plan on how best to get the teachers to stop beating them in their schools. Photos from the screening appeared in the Youth Paper the following week.



Questions included:

- *How did it make you feel to be Paulus in the film?*
- *What can we do to make our parents not beat us?*
- *Sometimes I am afraid if I report my dad he will go jail, so what should I do?*
- *Are Paulus and Loide still together?*

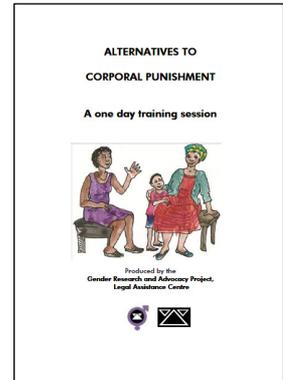
¹ A total of 300 learners were expected. Nine schools were invited and confirmed their expected attendance, but three schools did not participate in the end. Reasons given included that transport was not available on the day and that they had forgotten about the event.

² The Gender Research and Advocacy Project has a slot on this show (Young and Cool) every Thursday.

Phase 2: Training community activists

	Total attendees	Projected attendees
Total attendees	18	20

A total of 18 participants attended the trainer of trainers workshop on 20th July.³ Participants were from the Namibian Planned Parenthood Association, Catholic Aids Action, Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture, Women’s Action for Development, the Phillippi Trust, the Tanidare Empowerment Centre, LifeLine/ChildLine, Aids Care Trust, Young Women’s Christian Association and the Council of Churches. The participants received a copy of the DVD and a discussion guide, a training blueprint, copies of the two comics on alternatives to corporal punishment and a poster on alternatives to corporal punishment.



Materials

The development of the training blueprint and poster and copies of the DVD were funded by Movies that Matter. The poster also functions as a factsheet and can be emailed and photocopied as required.

We received positive responses about our factsheet poster from Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, from the Ministry of Education, and from the European Union. Copies of the training manual were requested by MGECW and UNICEF.

³ A total of 20 participants were expected to attend. Only two people were not able to attend on the day.

Phase 3: Screening of the film at schools and teacher education colleges in Windhoek, Rundu and Katima Mulilo.

	Total attendees	Projected attendees
Total	1135 people at 11 events	600 people at 6 events

Phase 3 involved screening the film in two further regions. In the proposal, four screenings were planned for this tour for a total of 400 people (two screening at secondary schools and two screenings at tertiary schools), but due to a series of advantageous arrangements we were able to fit in more screenings. In the Kavango region, the film was screened at three combined/secondary schools, and one tertiary school. In the Caprivi region the film was screened at three secondary schools and at one community screening. Although plans were made to screen the film at a tertiary institution in the Caprivi Region, the event was cancelled by school management due to a Presidential visit. This screening was replaced by additional screenings in the Khomas region, where the selected tertiary institution requested three screenings to allow all year-groups to see the film. Overall 1135 people attended the screenings. Actor Fellemon Ngango travelled with the LAC.

Venue	Number of attendees	Details
Rundu - Noordgrens Secondary School	300 secondary school learners and teachers from Grades 8-12	The learners who had been experiencing corporal punishment spoke loudly and demanded the practice be stopped in their school. One of the learners asked where teachers who administered corporal punishment could be reported. Another learner asked if you can't trust anyone in your school or in your family, who could you talk to about abuse? The actor, Fellemon Ndonga, was hailed a hero and was loudly applauded by the learners and later swarmed by female learners who wanted photos, autographs and embraces.
Rundu - Uvhungu-Vhungu Combined School	43 school learners from Grades 7-10 in afterschool children's rights club	The learners discussed the messages in the film and asked questions to both the representative from the Legal Assistance Centre and actor Fellemon Ngango.
Rundu - Sarusungu Combined School	39 school learners from Grade 7-10 in afterschool children's rights club	During the screening, children who had not been invited to the event (due to venue size) crowded around the classroom windows to catch a glimpse of the film as it screened to the afterschool club. During the discussion about the film, the learners said the film should be shown to more teachers as corporal punishment was continued to be administered in their schools. Florence Shivute, a LAC Child Protection Officer based in Rundu who regularly works with the school, said she would arrange a follow-up meeting with the principal and the teachers to address the issue.

Rundu - College of Education	117 tertiary students studying education	The soon-to-be teachers voiced their frustration with the current law that banned corporal punishment and with learners who continually misbehaved. They also commented that beating was part of the African tradition and that despite the law, most of them had been beaten in school and it was beneficial to them. Many admitted they would beat learners in the future depending on the circumstances. More work with this college is needed for change to occur.
Katima Mulilo - Caprivi Secondary School	47 secondary students and teachers	The small initial audience grew as learners continued to file in to watch the film as it played. Following the film, the learners asked questions about what they could do if corporal punishment was still being administered and what alternative solutions would be to specific situations, including breaking a window, arriving to school late or not having homework complete.
Sabbinda - Health Clinic	61 community members and clinic staff	The post-film discussion was conducted in Silozi, the mother tongue of the audience, and facilitated by an LAC intern. Discussion focused on fairness in raising children.
	28 learners, teacher from Sikosinyana Senior Secondary School	The learners asked what the negative consequences of corporal punishment are and what can be done when teachers still beat learners. The learners also asked what would be a better solution to specific situations. Many of the questions were turned over to the teacher at attendance: a man whom the learners said still administered corporal punishment. The teacher offered alternatives that he had seen in the film and said now that he had seen the film, he would use other forms of discipline. He also invited the LAC to screen the film to the entire school; however, due to time constraints, this was not possible.
Katima Mulilo - Kizito College	300 learners from Grade 8-12	The learners were very excited about the film and excited to meet the actor following the event. Discussion focused on learner responsibilities and how the five alternatives to corporal punishment could be implemented in a school setting.
Windhoek College of Education –first year students	98 students	The discussion focused on how the five alternatives to corporal punishment shown in the film could be implemented in the classroom. Learners were provided with scenarios and asked if they could apply an alternative form of discipline. This generated much discussion. One major concern the group had was involving teachers in policy discussion. One person suggested that a more thorough programme of alternatives should be developed in order to generate excitement with the student-teachers and bring about change. Right now, she said, the student teachers are learning theoretically about the alternatives but once they go into the field they use what they know best - corporal punishment. She suggested that the LAC work with various stakeholders in the education sector to develop a sustainable and intensive alternatives package. (In fact, the Ministry already has an out of print booklet on this which could be more widely utilised.)

Windhoek College of Education – second year students	51 students	The third year students had many complaints on the attitudes of learners and wanted to know how they could discipline children effectively without using corporal punishment. In contrast, the second years called themselves the ‘born to teach’ group. They made it clear that no matter what the offence, corporal punishment should not be allowed. They recommended that Lifeskills should be a promotional and compulsory subject (which it is, although it is still not always taught in schools) and said that corporal punishment brings fear amongst learners and will encourage more violence in communities. Both groups agreed that parents should be more involved with their children’s schooling and the education system. They said that learners are mostly not committed enough in school , so pass rates are deteriorating. They were adamant that we should all promote the responsibilities of learners and not just their rights. Furthermore, the rights of teachers should also be promoted.
Windhoek College of Education –third year students	51 students	
TOTAL	1135	

A questionnaire was distributed to the 51 third year students at the Windhoek College of Education. The results are as follows:

- 92% of the students were beaten at school in the past
- 89% were beaten at home in the past
- 68% were beaten for a reason they didn't understand in the past.

A sample of comments from the discussions with the students at the Windhoek College of Education is shown below:

Against the use of corporal punishment	For corporal punishment
“Alternatives to corporal punishment can work in our schools if we start at the beginning of school.”	“The Constitution should be amended and teachers should be well protected to keep education forward. Beating is not to kill but to educate.”
“Punishment is not a solution to discipline the children. Let the child find out what they have done and use better methods of discipline.”	“I was beaten in school and home but today I know what is wrong and right, how to respect my elders and everyone who is older than me. So I think corporal punishment should be implemented.”
Encouraging parental involvement	Positive responses to session
“I think there must be interaction between the parents and teachers, as well as the community at large because this will help us to identify the problems from learners and possibly we will come up with solutions.”	“The movie is really encouraging and it would really make a difference if it would be shown to all teachers in different schools.”
	“You had very interesting things to say and captured the attention of everyone.”

Photos from phase 3



Additional screenings

In order to prepare for the official launch of the Movies that Matter project and to gauge the type of discussion that would result, the film was previewed to Young Achievers,⁴ a youth group who regularly partners with Legal Assistance Centre on various activities. A total of 37 young people aged 9-21 attended. Following the screening of the film, a lively debate was facilitated on the pros and cons of using corporal punishment. During the event, an informal survey was conducted, the results are shown below:

- Have you ever been beaten? *86.1% of the group said they had been beaten at least once.*
- Have you ever been beaten for a reason you didn't understand? *59.5% of the groups said they were beaten for a reason they did not understand.*
- Does beating (including pinching & kicking) solve problems between adults and children? *68.6% said beating does not solve problems between adults and children.*
- Is corporal punishment allowed, by law, in schools? *91% were aware that corporal punishment was not allowed, by law, in schools.*
- Which do you think is the most effective form of discipline (corporal punishment excluded): *67% of learners said explaining the problem was the most effective way of discipline instead of corporal punishment (other methods mentioned were taking away privileges and ignoring the problem).*
- If you were the president, would you outlaw all forms of corporal punishment? *47% said if they were president, they would outlaw all forms of corporal punishment.*



⁴ Young Achievers is a group founded by the US Peace Corps. Its goal is to ensure that every member of the group completes tertiary education. To help reach this goal, the members meet once a week to discuss their progress, hear about peoples' successes, choose people to attend interesting events in town and listen to guest speakers.

We underspent on the catering budget and so arranged a final screening in Windhoek with adults and children from the Evangelical Lutheran Church. A total of 35 people (13 girls, 14 women, 5 men and 3 boys) attended including four German tourists who were visiting the church. The content of the film was a first for the church members and they clearly enjoyed it as from the start the participants stated that they didn't approve of corporal punishment. They stated that corporal punishment cannot justify the harm it can do to children. One participant shared with the group that what he can remember mostly from his childhood is the painful times when he was beaten as a child. The group had strong views that children have rights but that we need to teach them about the responsibilities they also have. The children also enjoyed the film and afterwards asked whether they can also act in movies like that when they grow up.

We also had funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to screen the film (but without lunchboxes) in the Windhoek area. During the month of June, the film was shown at 9 schools to a total of 4270 children and teachers.

	School	Number of learners/teachers	Sample comments
1	Hochland High School (launch)	700	
2	Pioneers Boys School	90	After the movie the boys described it as excellent screening. They commented that the movie is not only fun to watch but also very educative and they value the laws against corporal punishment.
3	Shifidi Secondary School	800	
4	Higher Technical School (HTS)	635	
5	Jan Jonker Afrikaner SS	90	
6	Goreangab SS	100	
7	Michelle McLean Primary School	115	
8	David Bezuidenhout	1200	The students asked for a replay of the movie and cheered the movie all the way. They described the movie as the best ever and asked questions on what measures to follow as learners if they have problems with corporal punishment.
9	St Andrew's Primary School	540	
	Total	4270	

During all of the screenings, it was clear that many schools visited still used corporal punishment as a form of classroom discipline and that many teachers defend the use of corporal punishment.

It was also apparent that learners are not sufficiently informed on the topic and the surrounding issues. The definition of corporal punishment was discussed at each event. Although the learners were comfortable talking about violence at school, they were not comfortable asking questions about beatings at home during the discussions. However, many approached LAC staff privately after the screenings for information. A sample of comments from the learners and teachers are shown below:

- “My parents said they beat me because they love me.” – *high school learner*
- “My father said he can’t beat me because he loves me.” – *primary school learner*
- “Can you please show the film to our parents as well?” – *high school learner*
- “What can a teacher do if learners are always coming late for school?” – *primary school teacher*
- “Is it corporal punishment if I asked a child to hold up a chair in the air as punishment?” – *primary school teacher*
- “What can a learner do if a teacher insults you verbally, ie you’re a ‘faggot’, or you’re stupid go ask your granny?”- *primary school learner*
- “What can a learner do if a teacher uses corporal punishment” – *most common question in all schools*

Screening of the film on national television

On 18 July and 22 August 2010, *A Betta Way* was screened on NBC. Although we cannot estimate how many people saw the film, we received 57 text messages following the first screening and 120 text messages following the second screening.

Below are selections of some of the responses:

- Hi, I would like to congratulate you guys on your drama under the topic CORPORAL PUNISHMENT is inspiring many, I really appreciate your hard work and on that you taught us a lot, thank u!
- *Hi, I feel your drama it was so nice, and I go with u 100%, say no 2 corporal punishment!*
- *I enjoyed your play it's true that teachers like to hurt us for no reason you guys show them a good example in grade 9 (from Walvis Bay)*
- CONGRATULATIONS on that film, it’s subjected to parents, guardians/care takers, teachers and all those that are involved with children. Those that have eyes they watched and those that have ears have listened. It was educative and indeed informative. Thumbs up to the legal assistance centre and keep up the great work.
- *Thank u very much the movie was great it change my life. From teacher Julia*

- I'm a grade 12 student in Rundu; at our school we us to weed grass if u make a mistake in a class. We used to weed starting from 13h00 to 15h00 with hunger. U attend study from 15h00 to 17h00. My question: is this corporal punishment or not?
- *Hi I have read your comic. I would like to say that I have tried this with my teenager girl and work perfectly, thanks to your comic.*

Media coverage

The work LAC is doing on alternatives to corporal punishment was covered by the media 6 times between 1 July and 30 September.

Date	Media	Topic
9 July	Print: <i>The Namibian</i>	Review of DVD <i>A Betta Way</i>
13 July	Television: One Africa	Coverage of NTN screening
20 July	Print: <i>YouthPaper (The Namibian)</i>	Coverage of NTN screening
28 July	Radio: NBC Silozi	Announcement encouraging people to attend Lunchbox Cinema event in Sibbinda
29 July	Print: <i>The Namibian</i>	Opinion piece on corporal punishment by LAC

Local Partners

The *Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre* supported the film festival by allowing us to use their conference room for the trainer-of-trainers session at no cost. They also provided speakers for the regional screenings at no cost.

Effects

Through the screening of the film, 1446 people received information about alternatives to corporal punishment. Of particular importance was the interaction between LAC staff and children who were in need of information or advice on how to handle situations of corporal punishment that they have been exposed to.

The training-of-trainers project will have a ripple effect and we are waiting to hear feedback from the participants about their activities.

The coverage of the topic and activities in print, radio and television media means that the project had national exposure. The sms line advertised at the end of the film allowed us to enter

into dialogue with many more people that would have been possible through the screenings alone (due to time and financial constraints).

Lessons learned

Several key lessons were learned during this project. We learned about the continued widespread prevalence of the use of corporal punishment in schools, despite the practice being banned by a Supreme Court decision in 1991. Young people also often reported violence at home at the hands of parents and other adult caregivers. At each event, the most frequent question was: where can a child go for help if they face violence at school, in the community or at home? The fact this question was continually asked illustrates a lack of awareness/knowledge about avenues for help that are available to children who are living with violence. Of those who were aware of possibilities for reporting violence, many questioned the effectiveness of such reporting, particularly within a family setting. In response to this need, the Legal Assistance Centre is planning to publish a comic about child abuse and where an abused child can get help; this comic will be aimed at children and distributed nationally as a newspaper insert in three languages.

The way forward

The Legal Assistance Centre will continue to screen *A Betta Way*. Our greatest challenge is that we do not own speakers and so have to borrow them. Whilst the Franco-Namibian Cultural Centre allowed the Legal Assistance Centre to use their speakers free of charge for this project, this arrangement may not be possible in the long-term. The ideal situation would be if LAC had its own speakers.

Since we have developed a range of materials to accompany the film, we will continue to source funds so that the DVD can be distributed at low or no cost to interested parties in Namibia who can then facilitate their own events.

The Legal Assistance Centre is in the process of producing another film, which we anticipate will be released in early 2011. We would ideally like to repeat this project for the new film. Given the logistical challenges noted above regarding the preparation of lunchboxes, we would change the name of the project from Lunchbox Theatre to Lollipop Theatre to allow for children to have something to eat whilst watching the film, while minimizing the logistics required to prepare the snacks. LifeLine/ChildLine sells lollipops to raise funds for its work and could be an ideal partner for a future film festival project.

Conclusion

This small but intensive project has been a great success. In the proposal we estimated that we would reach 920 people. Instead we reached 1446 people, which is an additional 526 people. Despite the topic being very controversial, the majority of responses to the film were very positive.

While we encountered many justifications for the use of corporal punishment during this campaign, there were distinct signs of hope. Youth applauded at the end of the film and made vows to change approaches when they become parents. Some even challenged teachers who were present at the screenings. Community activists have been trained and will spread the messages to their communities and teachers, and teachers-in-training opened their minds to new possibilities. One of the most poignant moments of the project is described below:

A film screening was concluding at a small health clinic in Sibbinda, a rural community in the Caprivi Region. Women from the community who had heard the message on the radio had poured in to watch the film and participate in the discussion. As the women conversed in Silozi, the dominant language spoken in the area, a teacher and his 30 learners appeared. He had learned there was a human rights event and decided his learners needed an education on the topic. The film was screened a second time. During the discussion that followed the film, it became known that the teacher present was using corporal punishment on the students. The students gave examples from their experience with that teacher on when corporal punishment was used. During the discussion, the teacher was asked for examples on other ways he could deal with those situations instead of using physical punishment. He began quoting the movie – explain the problem, ask the learners to leave the class and make the learners take responsibility for their actions. It was a fruitful discussion in which learners began to understand that discipline was still needed in classrooms but the teacher also announced that he would no longer use physical punishment on the learners.