

“Education of children on positive discipline. Highlights and current practice in Europe”

Summary of the questionnaire (Latvia)

The questionnaire was translated into Latvian at the beginning of January 2014 and the survey was conducted in Latvia, Bauska during the month of February, 2014.

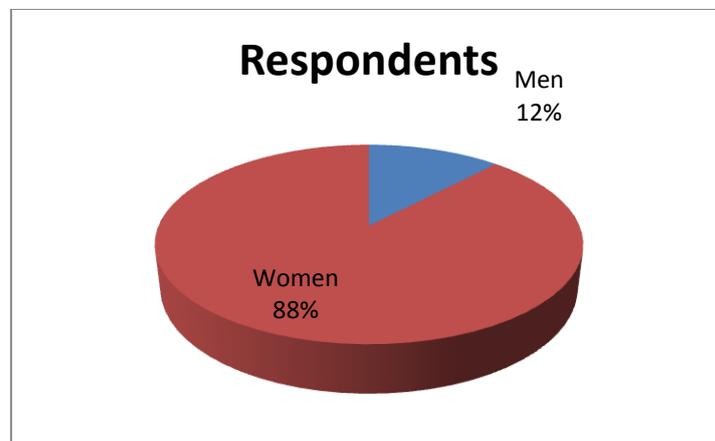
Questionnaire analysis was prepared end of February – beginning of March.

In total there were 60 questionnaires handed out, out of which 50 were returned.

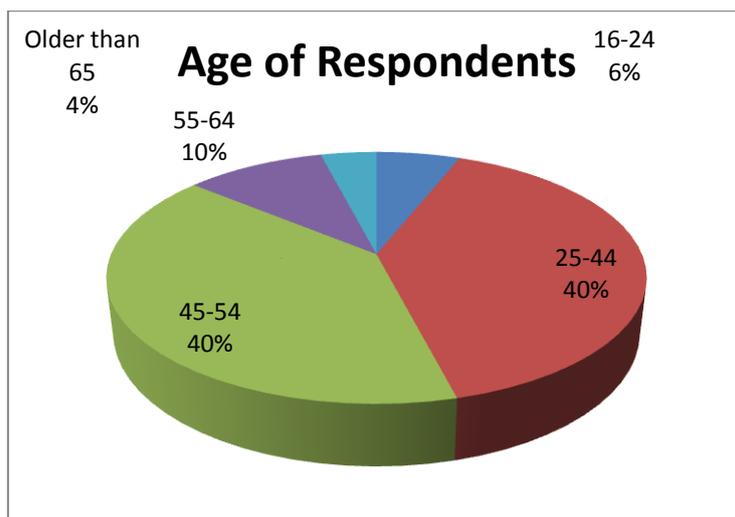
Respondents to the questionnaire were parents of pre-school and school-aged children from the town Bauska. Answering the questionnaires was anonymous and on volunteer basis.

Section I. General data about respondents

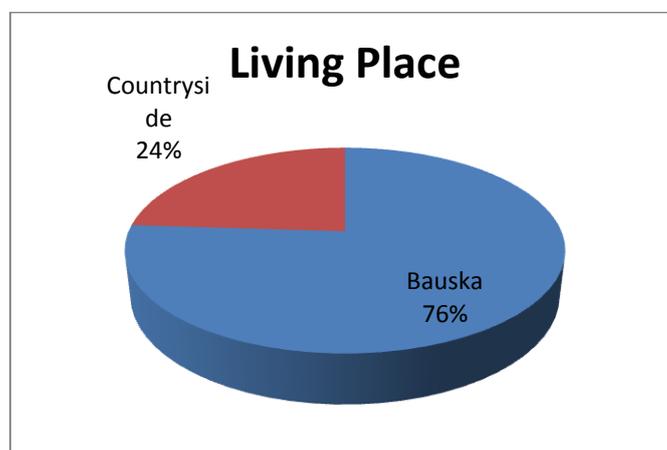
Alltogether 50 questionnaires were analysed. The majority of respondents were women.



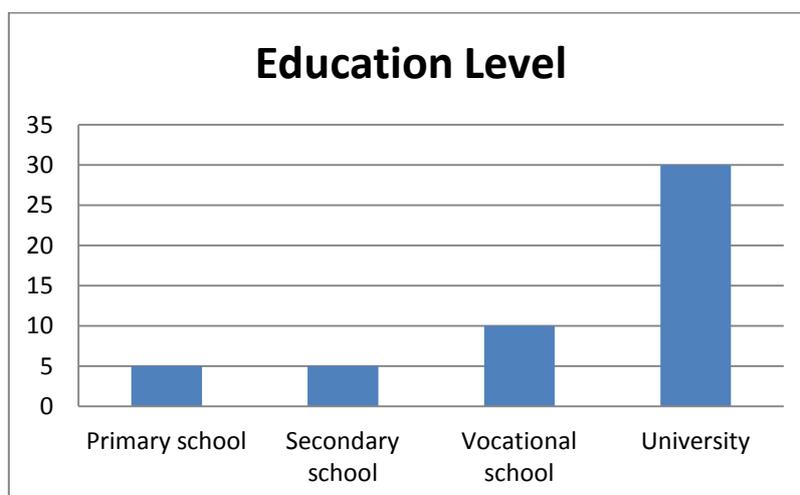
The most of respondents were in the age groups of 25-45 and 45-54 years.



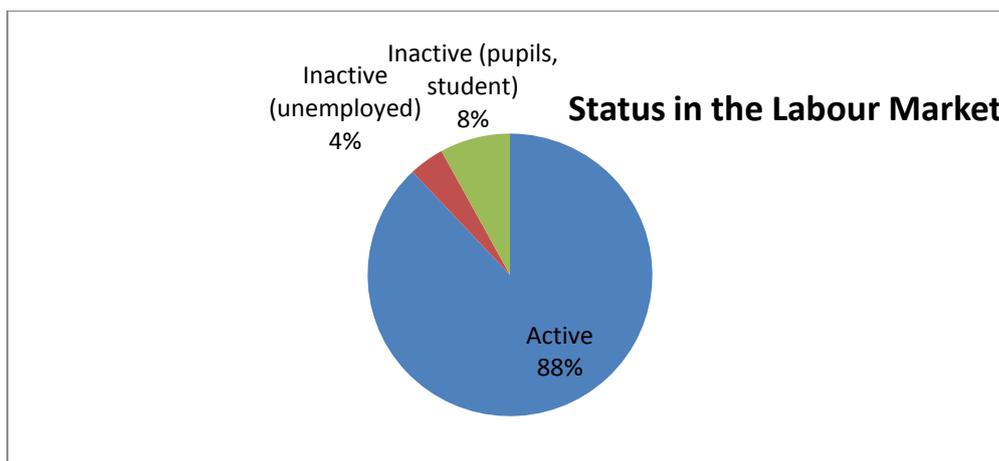
The majority of respondents live in the town of Bauska, only a few families live in the countryside.



About 40% of the respondents had university education, almost 30% had vocational education and 20% secondary school/high school education and about one tenth primary school education.

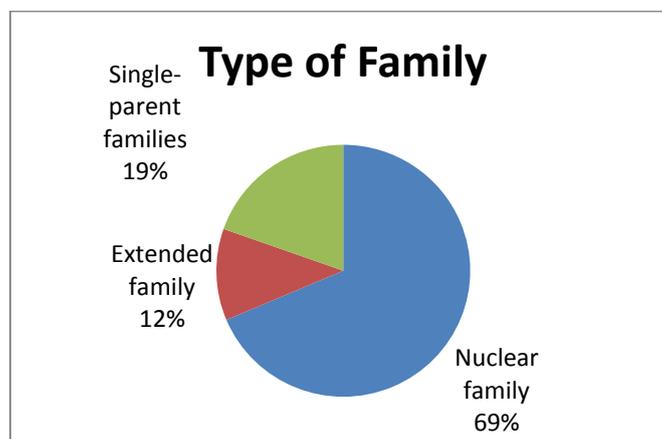


88% of the respondents were active on labor market, 12% were unemployed.

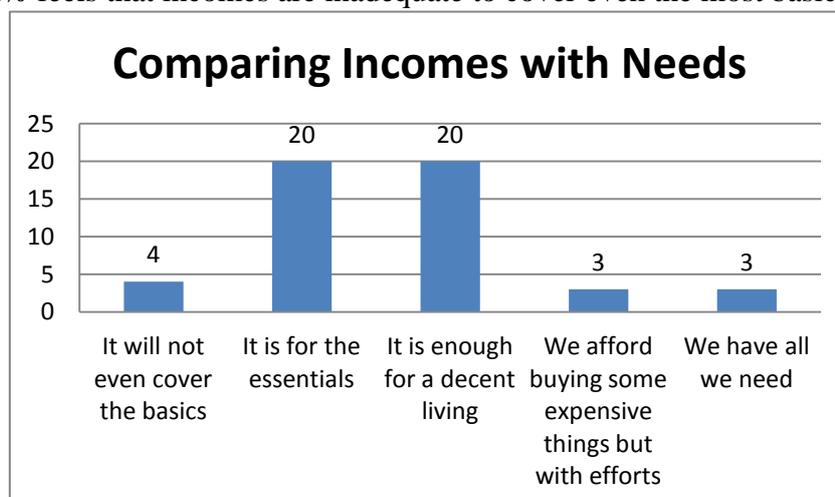


Section II. Respondents' Family

More than a half of respondents came from a nuclear family. About 19% of respondents were single-parent families, most of them single mothers (8). 6 respondents came from extended family.



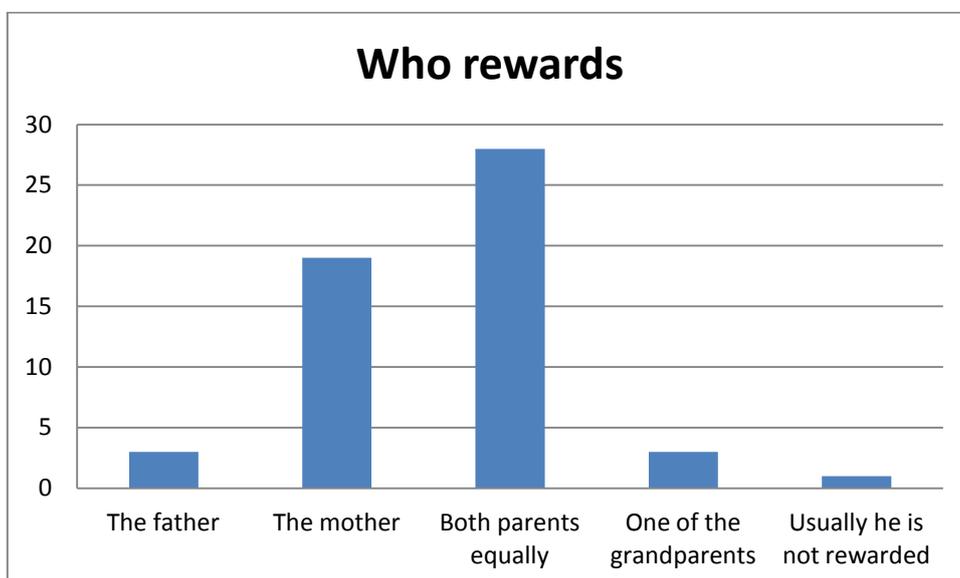
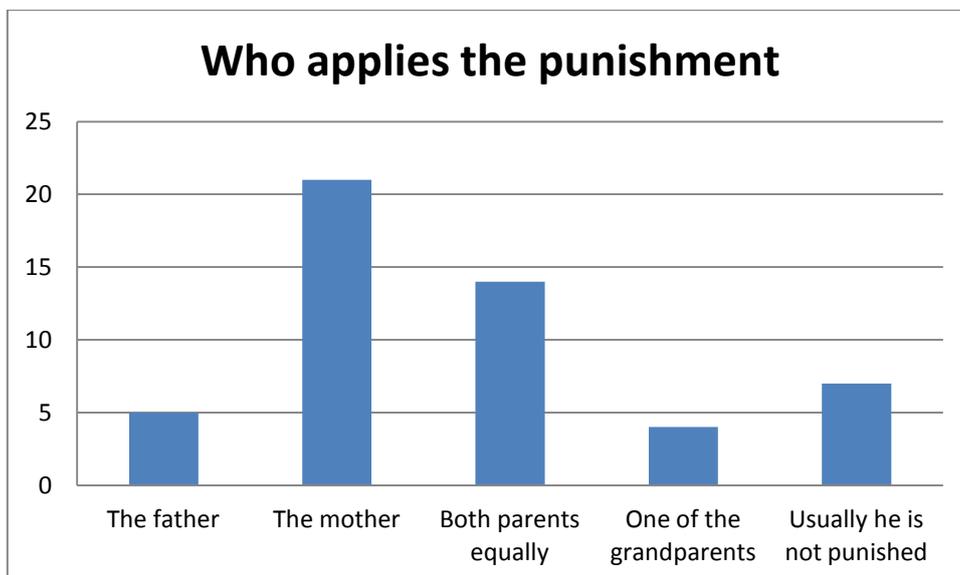
6% of the respondents feel they do economically well or very well, 40% consider their financial situation normal, 40% feels they can cover just the elementary needs and 2% feels that incomes are inadequate to cover even the most basic needs.

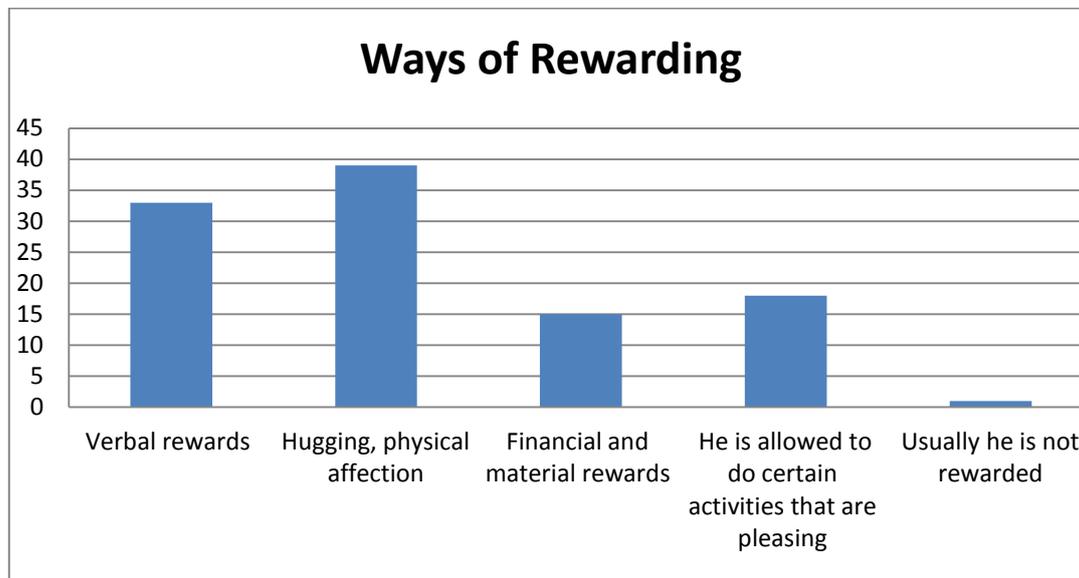


In general it can be said, that an average respondent is a 25-45 years old employed, educated woman coming from a nuclear family which is having enough income to meet the family's needs.

Section III Disciplinary methods

7 respondents have told, that usually they don't punish children.





Direct communication with the child is often used by 56% of respondents and very often by 22% of parents. No parents wrote, that they never use calm discussion of the problem.

Criticizing the child is seldom used by 36% and never by 14% of parents, very often by 2% (1 person). Insulting is never used by 22%, seldom by 34%, however, often by 4% of parents. Physical punishment in the form of pulling from hair is never used by 72%, seldom by 28% of parents. Reducing pocket Money is never used by 56%, seldom by 24%, and sometimes by 16%. Temporary prohibition of child's favourite activities is sometimes used by 26% and never by 40% of parents. 28% of parents never punish their children by having them perform additional tasks, however, sometimes – by 36%. The child is allowed to experience the consequences of his act sometimes by 40%, seldom by 20%, but often – by 22% of parents. 30% of the respondents never threaten their child, 32% do it seldom, but 20% do it often. 64% of parents never refuse to talk with their children for some period of time, 2 parents do it often, one – very often. Five parents admitted use of heavy physical punishment seldom, 45 (or 90%) said – never. No parent has used punishment methods of closing the child in a dark room or not giving food.

In the childhood of the parents, the used disciplinary methods were more tough, because the earlier generation had physical and harsher punishment as an accepted method of disciplining children. Even though filling in the questionnaire was anonymous, it was easier for the respondents to accept the punishment methods that were applied on them in their childhood, than the ones they are applying themselves on their children. Even though the disciplinary methods in earlier times were more harsh, it does not mean that this was the only case – this is proved by the fact that in the case of 36% of the respondents parents had calmly discussed the problem with them. 26% said never or seldom. Apart from that some respondents revealed in individual discussions that things like mobile phones or computers could not be used to discipline them when they were children because these devices simply did not exist.



18% of the respondents were never criticized by their parents. 24% of respondents were not insulted by their parents. Physical punishment in the form of pulling from hair has been experienced sometimes by 4%, seldom by 16% and never by 34% of respondents. 74% of the respondents had never their pocket money reduced, because some of them did not have it at all. Just one person admitted that the pocket money was reduced often. 18% of respondents say, that sometimes they were prohibited certain pleasant activities, but for 40% this method was never used. 24% of respondents admit that they had to sometimes perform additional tasks, but 26% never had this kind of punishment. Experiencing the consequences of one's act has been sometimes experienced by 30%. 14% have been threatened sometimes, 30% seldom and 42% never. 6% of parents say, that parents have very often refused from talking, but 62% says this has never happened. More severe physical punishment has never been used by 58% of the parents of respondents, but in case of 10% this has been done sometimes and in case of 24% seldom. Two of the respondents admitted having been physically punished very often. 98% says they never were locked in a dark room and no one was ever left without food.

The attitude towards physical punishment differs from parent to parent and sometimes the replies are contradictory. Probably this comes from the fact, that the parents are educated and well aware, what is right, but the behavioral patterns coming from their own childhood are different.

48% strongly disagree that beating is an effective method of disciplining children because it prevents restlessness and rebellion and must be applied from time to time. 70% of respondents say, that parents do not have the right to beat children when they want.

48% of parents agree or strongly agree, that beating damages the relationship between parent and child. 4 % of respondents agree that beating is not necessary to discipline a child and should never be used, at the same time 12% stay neutral and 84% disagree or strongly disagree. 32% of parents say, that beating of children by parents should be prohibited by law, but 30% stay neutral and 38% disagree. More severe treatment will strengthen the children and, ultimately, will be a benefit to the child's life into adulthood, agree 14%, 24% stay neutral and 62% disagree. 58% find that beating is rather used by incompetent parents who can not find alternative disciplinary methods, 28% stay neutral in this question and 14% disagree. Children should be physically punished occasionally to avoid becoming spoiled and disobedient, thinks 6% of parents, 18% stay neutral and 76% disagrees. 24% of parents think that a slap given to children occasionally cannot possibly hurt them, 14% stay neutral and just 62% disagree. Even though 98% of parents find they do not have the right to slap children when they want, one person stays neutral and one – agrees completely. Spanking is not necessary to discipline a child and should never be used, agree 54% of respondents, 26% stay neutral and 20% disagree. Spanking is a very effective method to prevent future unwanted behavior, find 8% of the parents, 14% stay neutral and 78% disagree.

