A DISCOURSE ON THE DEVELOPMENTAL EFFECTS OF CHILD MARRIAGE

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ABSTRACT

In many developing countries, child [early] marriage is attributed to poverty, gender discrimination and migration for example in the State of Uttar Pradesh in India, studies of the District Level Household Survey (DLHS) conducted 1997 found that 40% of girls are married before the age of 18 despite the existence of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006. The UNICEF State of the World's Children Report 2007 noted that, "premature pregnancy and motherhood are an inevitable consequence of child marriage. Girls under 15 are five times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth than women in their 20s." The goal of this study is to conduct an analysis on the development and human rights effects of early child marriage in Nigeria. The methodology employed in the analysis is predominantly based on secondary data. The author argues that early marriage violates the human rights of children that are coerced and abused by parents without the reasonableness of weighing the long term developmental effects on the child therefore, the social, mental and intellectual development of the children are disenchanted.

Keywords: Early Marriage, Child Abuse, Human Rights of Children, Early Education.