

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND CURRENT TRENDS IN CHILD PROTECTION IN AFRICA*

Abstract

All over the world, sustainability has become the focal point of developmental processes. Children are the tools of sustainability of human resources base. A developmental programme that does not take account of this fact is bound to fail, and any act or mission that is inimical to ensuring that children grow up into responsible and productive adults is a major stumbling block in sustainability of human resources as base of any nation and the world in general. Children are the most vulnerable members of the society and require protection from adults. The world 'rights' when applied to children are not rights properly so called but guiding principles for adult behavior towards achieving child protection and enthroning behavioural response for 'the best interest of the child'. This is construed from the fact that human rights instruments did not include age as a possible basis for discrimination. This paper adopts the analytical tool for the doctrinal method using authorities on the subject from the books, journal articles and internet sources. The identification and analysis of the anomalies shall elicit recommendations as to the way forward in Africa.

Keywords: Children's Rights, Child Protection, Current Trends, Africa

1. Introduction

The importance and need for the protection of children can never be over emphasized. The issue of children in Nigeria, and many other jurisdictions is usually lumped together with that of women. If the perception of women in most societies which perception is legal, social-economic and cultural status than men, and essentially evil, is anything to go by, not much consideration is expected of children. The Soweto Massacre of children indeed created the awareness of the plight of children not only in Africa, but in many parts of the world. The plight of children has had expressions in the disproportionate effect of difficult times (conflict situation, economic recession and reign of crime) on them. These necessitated the need for various legal tools for the protection of children although there has never been a time when children were completely bereft of protection even before the era of legal protection, specifically for children. In 1807, far preceding the existence of any of the legal instruments protective of children in this paper, a New York shop keeper was convicted of sadistically assaulting his slave and her three year old daughter¹. In 1969, an Illinois father was prosecuted for confining his blind son in a cold cellar in the middle of the winter². In 1948 however the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights came in place³ and affirmed the rights of children everywhere to receive adequate care and protection from their parents and community. Even though the Declaration was not legally binding, it paved way for other international instruments protective of human rights. This finally led to the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1989 which now formed the tap root of regional and national laws protective of the human rights of children. In addition to these and other specialized instruments like CEDAW and ILO (international Labour Organization), the International Decade for a culture of Peace and Violence for the children of the World was observed from 2001 to 2010 and since then, there has been a conscious awakening of a global consensus for the protection of children from all forms of violations. Children's rights in this work, refer to the human rights of children with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care.

Child Protection refers to the protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect⁴. For the purposes of this work a child is any person below the age of 18 even though in many communities a child may be defined within a context. This work still seeks to analyse the rights of children under the laws, and how currently these rights are protected in Africa.

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¹ EB Myers, A Short History of child protection in America, Family Law quarterly 2008 VOL 42 No 3

² *Fletcher V People* (1869)52 III 395 (1869)

³ General Assembly Resolution 217 (III) adopted on 10th December 1948 by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

⁴ Article 19; United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child

2. Laws and the Trends of Protecting the Rights of Children in Africa

2.1. International

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Since after the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in 1948⁵, the United Nations has produced numerous Conventions, treaties and Covenants which bind member states on the issue of human rights, and children have not been left out of this. In 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child came into being following from the 1959 Declaration on the Rights of the Child. The Convention on the Rights of the Child seeks to reduce into a single document, all the rights and privileges of children. It is also the most widely ratified Convention making it a landmark convention. It should be noted that Nigeria is a signatory to many international instruments with direct bearing on children. These will include the CRC, CEDAW, the African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the child, optional protocol to the UN Convention on the rights of Children on the Involvement of Children in ...Conflict and ILO Convention on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labour. No reservation was entered by Nigeria in any of these. The Convention on the Rights of the Child was ratified by Nigeria in 1991 however this ratification did not give it the force of law in domestic spheres due to the stricture Nigeria placed on itself in S.12 of the Constitution⁶. The Convention addresses a comprehensive set of economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights considered to be interdependent, universal and indivisible. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides for the establishment of a Committee on the Rights of the Child, for the purpose of examining the progress made by State parties in achieving the realization of the obligations undertaken in the Convention. This Convention also defines children as all human beings under the age of eighteen years. The high lights of the Provision of the Convention are:

- ❖ A child is recognized as a person under 18 years unless national laws recognize the age of majority earlier. This may give room for variations that will encourage child marriage.
- ❖ This Convention is hinged on four general principles of non-discrimination, the right of life survival and development, the best interest of the child and the right to have their views heard and given due weight in all decisions affecting them.
- ❖ Every child has the inherent right to life and state parties must recognize this and ensure the child's survival and development⁷.
- ❖ All rights apply to all children without exception and the States parties are enjoined to ensure the rights set forth in the present convention, to each child within their jurisdiction⁸.
- ❖ All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests and the State shall provide the child with adequate care when parents or others charged with that responsibility, fail to do so⁹.
- ❖ The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child¹⁰.
- ❖ Children shall not be separated from their parents unless this is deemed to be incompatible with their best interest¹¹.
- ❖ The child has the right to a name at birth, to acquire a nationality and as far as possible know his or her parents and be cared for by them¹².

⁵ General Assembly Resolution, Op cit

⁶ Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria. C23 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria

⁷ Article 6 Convention on the Rights of the Child

⁸ Article 2 Ibid

⁹ Article 3 Ibid

¹⁰ Article 12

¹¹ Article 9

- ❖ The child has the right to express his or her views obtain information, make ideas or information known regardless of frontiers¹³.
- ❖ Children should also have freedom of thought, conscience and religion¹⁴, freedom of Association¹⁵, protection of privacy¹⁶.
- ❖ States shall protect children from physical or mental harm and neglect including sexual abuse and exploitation¹⁷.
- ❖ Parents have joint primary responsibility for raising the child, and the state shall support them in this¹⁸
- ❖ Adoption, where allowed, shall be carried out in the best interest of the child and only with authorization of competent authorities and safeguards for the child¹⁹.
- ❖ A disabled child has the right to special care, education, and training to help him or her enjoy a full and decent life in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self reliance and social integration possible²⁰
- ❖ States shall protect children from economic exploitation and from work that may interfere with their education or be harmful to their health or well being, and children have the right to leisure, recreation and cultural activities²¹.
- ❖ The child has a right to the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. State parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and in particular shall take appropriate measures to diminish infant and child mortality, combat disease and malnutrition and provide necessary medical assistance and health care, ensure pre-natal and post natal care for mothers.....²²
- ❖ Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.
- ❖ Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The states duty is to ensure that this responsibility can be fulfilled, and this can include material assistance to parents and their children²³.
- ❖ The child has a right to education. The state parties shall in particular; make primary education compulsory and available and free for all. The state shall also engage in international co-operation to implement this right. Higher education should also be made accessible to all on the basis of capacity.....²⁴
- ❖ Children have the right to protection from the use of narcotic and psychotropic drugs and from being involved in their production or distribution²⁵

¹² Article 7

¹³ Article 13

¹⁴ Article 14

¹⁵ Article 15

¹⁶ Article 16

¹⁷ Article 19 and 34

¹⁸ Article 18

¹⁹ Article 21

²⁰ Article 23

²¹ Article 32 and 31

²² Article 24

²³ Article 27

²⁴ Article 28

²⁵ Article 33

- ❖ The state shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, prostitution and pornography. It is also the states obligation to make effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children, and from work that threatens his or her health, education or development and set minimum age for employment and regulate working condition²⁶
- ❖ Children in conflict with the law have the right to treatment which promotes the child's sense of dignity and worth, take the child's age into account and aim at his or her re-integration into society. Capital punishment or life imprisonment shall not be imposed for crimes committed before the age of 18, and no child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment²⁷.
- ❖ State parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that children under 15 years of age have no direct part in hostilities and that child victims of armed conflict, torture, maltreatment, neglect or exploitation receive treatment, social integration, and rehabilitative care²⁸.
- ❖ Wherever standards set in national laws or other International laws relevant to child rights are higher than those in this Convention, the higher standard shall always apply.²⁹
- ❖ The state parties also undertook to submit to the committee, through the Secretary- general of the United Nations, reports on the measures they have adopted to give effect to the rights within two years of adoption and thereafter every five years³⁰

2.2. Regional

African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 1990

The Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) now African Union (AU) brought the Convention (CRC) home to Africa complemented and re-enforced it by adopting the African Charter on the Rights and welfare of the Child in 1990. It is the only comprehensive (covering civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights) and binding regional treaty focused specifically on children's rights. It was adopted to address the peculiar issues about African children, perceived not to have been covered by the Convention. The Charter has the objective of addressing the African child growing up under specific special issues prevailing in Africa such as economic and sexual exploitation, gender discrimination, and early marriage among others. The Charter defines 'child' to mean a human being below the age of 18 years. It affirms the fact that children are entitled to all the fundamental human rights such as right to life...and protects the child from exploitations that hinder the education, health, physical, moral or spiritual development of the child and has the following guiding principles:-

- (a). Non-discrimination
- (b). Best interest of the child
- (c). Survival and development of the child
- (d). Child participation
- (e). Responsibilities of the child in his/her society and beyond

The sterling and Complementary role of the Charter to the Convention are:-

- ❖ It places the age of majority without allusion to any law that provides otherwise.

²⁶ Article 32, 34 and 25

²⁷ Article 40 and 37

²⁸ Article 38 and 39

²⁹ Article 41

³⁰ Article 44

- ❖ The Charter does not limit to international conflicts in the protection of children during armed conflict. It extends it to children in situations of internal conflict.
- ❖ The Charter protects all children under 18 years for purposes of recruitment in armed conflict while Convention protects those under 16.
- ❖ The Charter asserts the best interest of the child to be the primary consideration in all actions taken by any person or authority³¹.
- ❖ The charter recognizes the importance of family and provides for its protection³².
- ❖ The Charter affirms that children do not only have rights but also have duties and obligations to their families³³.
- ❖ Children of Mothers serving jail terms are provided for showing the pivotal role mothers play, in the upbringing of the child³⁴.

The ratifying state parties of the Charter must submit initial reports within two years of the entry into force of the Charter and thereafter every three years. Some African Countries like Nigeria unfortunately have not domesticated this Charter³⁵.

2.3. National

The Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates: 'States parties shall undertake to disseminate the Convention's principles and take all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the Rights recognized in the present Convention'. In obedience to this obligatory request, African and indeed other states have taken steps through legislations, and other processes to protect children. The Children's Act was promulgated in Ghana in 1998. The first part of the Act spells out the rights of the child. For the purpose of the Act, a child is a person below the age of eighteen years³⁶. The best interest of the child shall be paramount in any matter concerning a child³⁷. The Act then goes ahead to speak of non-discrimination against a child, it's right to name and nationality³⁸, right to grow up with parents (unless harm could be caused on the child and subject to the best interest of the child). It is remarkable that age is among the grounds for non discrimination. Children in Ghana also have right to parental property³⁹, this is also remarkable because of the line of inheritance in some parts of Ghana. The Act also guarantees children the right social activity⁴⁰, right to education and well being⁴¹ right not to be subjected to exploitative labour⁴², opinion⁴³ and right to refuse betrothal⁴⁴. Parental duty and responsibility is also attached and this is in the area of right to life, dignity, respect, leisure, liberty, health, registration of birth, education and shelter for the child⁴⁵.

Part II of this Act stipulates responsibilities for care of the child and for the purposes of the Act, a child is in need of care and protection if the child;

³¹ Article 4 Clause I

³² Article 18

³³ Article 31

³⁴ Article 30

³⁵ Article 4 CRC

³⁶ S.1 Children's Act of Ghana 1998

³⁷ S.2(2) *Ibid*

³⁸ S.4

³⁹ S.7

⁴⁰ S.9

⁴¹ S.8

⁴² S.12

⁴³ S.11

⁴⁴ S.14

⁴⁵ S.6

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- a. Is an orphan or is deserted by relatives, has a guardian who does not take proper care etc, or is unfit by reason of criminal or drunken habits.

The care and protection is the duty of District Assembly for the children within its area of authority and they shall ensure that within the district, governmental agencies liaise with each other in matters concerning children⁴⁶. The Social Welfare and Community Development Department of a district Assembly shall investigate cases of contravention of children's right⁴⁷s. Persons to report child abuse and protection cases are any person with information on:

- a. Child abuse
- b. A child in need of care and protection.

There is also a family tribunal which in, appropriate cases may issue a care order to the Department on application by a probation officer after the police have searched the premises where the child is kept. The duties of the probation officer are spelt out in the Act and include.

- a. Advise and help the child and his family.
- b. Take reasonable steps to ensure the child is not harmed
- c. Hold regular reviews to plan for the future of the child.

There are also the child panels and family panel for violations and protection of the children including adoption, parentage, custody, access and maintenance.

In Uganda, the Constitution⁴⁸ provides framework for the protection of children in Uganda. It defines child's rights, mandates parents to care for and protect their children; children have the right to education, medical care, grow up with their parents and so on. In effect Uganda has enshrined the specific rights of children into their national constitution. The children's Act⁴⁹ of Uganda puts into effect all the Constitutional provisions on Children and puts this into a legal framework. It accords special rights to children with disability and mandating parents or guardians to maintain such children with emphasis on education, immunization, guidance, medical care, provide diet and shelter. It also covers areas of adoption maintenance, foster care, and travail in administration of justice.

Nigeria's Constitution has an array of human rights in Chapter IV and the Directive principles in Chapter II. These all apply to children too.

The Domestication of the Convention of the Rights of the child came *via* the Child Rights Act 2003. The Act defines a child as one under the age of eighteen years. The Act categorically provides that the best interest of the child shall remain paramount in all issues. It provides for freedom from discrimination where age is not a ground and provides for the dignity of the child⁵⁰. Apart from the provisions against physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect, every child is entitled to rest, leisure and enjoyment of the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health it also has measures for children in need of special protection (mentally, physically challenged or street children) Expectant and nursing mothers are to be catered for too. A remarkable provision is that against Tattoos and female genital mutilation. Sexual abuse, buying and selling and general exploitation and recruitment into the armed forces are also prohibited by the Act⁵¹. The Act also provides for the preservation of all Criminal law provisions securing the protection of the child whether born or unborn e.g the extensive provisions in the Criminal Code protecting the unborn child from abortion and so on. The Act also makes Provisions for the Establishment of family. Courts in all the states to hear all cases in which the existence of a legal right, power, duty, liability,

⁴⁶ S.15

⁴⁷ S.19

⁴⁸ The Ugandan Constitution 1995

⁴⁹ Children's Act of Uganda 2003

⁵⁰ Child Rights Act 2003 S.10

⁵¹ SS. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30 and 34

privilege interest, obligation or claim in respect of a child is in issue and any criminal Proceeding relating thereto. Children Residential Centers and Children Correctional Centers are to be established to replace approved schools under CYPA(Children and Young Person's Act) and where institutionalization is desirable, it mandates the establishment of Special Mothers Centres for pregnant children. Where the court decides against institutionalization, it should utilize such measures as dismissing the charge, placing the child under care, guidance and supervision which is now a replacement for probation and its officers. The issue of children and women are in the residual list in Nigeria, so only states that desire the Act will adopt it as their state law. This explains why some states have not adopted it, and the effect is that the Act does not protect all Children in Nigeria since it is not uniformly applicable. At the last count, only 24 out of the 36 states have adopted it.

The CRC was ratified by all Countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Some have made reservations though usually linked with Sharia Law as a framework to the interpretation of the CRC⁵². North Africa seems to be obligated to some other instrument such as the Arab Charter on Human Rights, and they also adopted the Charter on the Rights of the Arab child⁵³ and Covenant on the Rights of the child in Islam. These stand out as the only human rights instruments focused on the rights of the child specifically enacted for Muslim-majority countries. The Covenant affirms that states shall recognize all children's rights to benefit from social security and that all children are entitled to a living standard suitable to their development but only 8 O/C countries signed it and only two ratified it⁵⁴. The countries in North Africa have the Constitutions, which have provisions relevant to social security, standard of living and both explicitly extended to children. Egypt⁵⁵, Morocco⁵⁶, have extended to children.

The adoption of a comprehensive statute for children is very important as a step to strengthening children's right in a country. The Child Rights Act in Egypt for example passed through a significant amendment procedure in 2008 towards broadening rights relevance to social protection and affirming that 'every child shall have the right to access health and social care services and be treated for illness⁵⁷. Social transfer (monthly pension) was also established for orphans (fatherless children or those whose parents are in prison, divorced⁵⁸ etc). The instrument is very detailed compared to others in the region. Tunisia also have social provisions in their Child Rights Act but not as significant as that of Egypt. It would seem that all the regions in Africa apply a holistic approach in their child protection trends although at varying levels if the situation in North Africa is considered. This means that leaders and practitioners take a comprehensive view of interventions and how they reinforce one another to produce a complete and successful child protection system. The system is a set of laws, policies regulations and services needed across all social sectors- especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice to support prevention and protective responses inclusive of family strengthening⁵⁹. It could also be defined as a set of coordinated formal and informal elements working together to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect exploitation and other forms of violence against children⁶⁰. At best a system approach will have more integrated interventions designed to interconnect and create charge on a scale that has wider benefits and sustainability⁶¹. All systems now employ the three RS constituting of Reporting, Recognition and Response and the 5ps of prevention, paramountcy, partnership, protection and parental responsibility. These are the essential rights to be protected and the trend by all is to use methods available to achieve these including the use of technology such as CCTV cameras, advice from social media such as; don't drop your children in school too early or pick them up too late and so on.

3. The Violations

Despite the array of laws and strategic system seemingly adopted by African nations, the abuse and neglect of children in Africa persists. A fact box obtained from 'save the children's child protection strategy 2013 – 2015 states *inter alia*,

⁵² S.149 CRA 2003 of Nigeria

⁵³ Adopted in 1983

⁵⁴ Adopted in 2005

⁵⁵ Adopted in 80

⁵⁶ Adopted in 84

⁵⁷ Adopted in 7

⁵⁸ Adopted in 49

⁵⁹ UNICEF Global Strategy 2008

⁶⁰ B Forbes and D Lau, E Oswald, T Intnejetive, A system approach to child protection: a world vision discussion paper, Monrovia 2011

⁶¹ Making the world a safe place for child; child protective Initiative May 2013

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- a. It is estimated that 150 million girls and 73 million boys worldwide are raped or subjected to other forms of sexual violence each year.
 - b. Since 1990, an estimated 90% of those killed in conflict around the world have been civilians, and 80% of those have been women and children
 - c. In at least 13 countries, children are being recruited into armed forces and groups.
 - d. It is estimated that between 100 to 140 million girls and women in the world have undergone some form of female genital mutilation.
 - e. Among young women aged 15-24, 48% were married before the age of 18 in South Asia (9.7 million girls), 42% in Africa and 29% in Latin American and the Caribbean
 - f. Some 17,700 asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied or separated children in 69 countries in 2011, mostly Afghan and Somali children.
 - g. It is estimated that over 145 million children have lost one or both parents, and over 8 million children without appropriate care around the world live in residential care facilities.
 - h. Around the world, 115 million children – 74 million boys and 41 million girls – are involved in the worst forms of child labour.
 - i. Three out of four children experience violent discipline at home.
 - j. 16.6 million children have lost one or both parents due to HIV and AIDS and have important care needs: 90% of those children live in sub-Saharan Africa.

Children being very vulnerable are prone to all manners of abuse. Child abuse includes physical, mental and emotional injury, neglect, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and slavery. It is the violation of the right of a child as well as a hindrance to his or her welfare. Some of the abuses African Children experience are highlighted hereunder;

Sexual Abuse

The National Centre on Child Abuse and neglect in the United States defines child sexual abuse as ‘any act of a sexual nature upon or with a child by an adult, especially by parents, guardians and other adult care givers’⁶². Sexual abuse leads to healthy, moral, developmental and psychological consequences on the child. Both the Convention the Charter, and even the National Laws of African States posit that every child is entitled to respect for the dignity of the human person so no child should be subjected to physical, mental or emotional injury, neglect or maltreatment including sexual abuse. Sexual abuse takes the form of either carnal knowledge with or without consent of the child or procuring the child for prostitution. Girls more than boys are more exposed to this. Some children get abused sexually by drivers, gatemen, nanny or housemaid. The perpetrator may also be a close or distant relative. In Nigeria for instance, the Criminal Code Act⁶³ provides against indecent assault on males and female and they carry three and two years prison terms respectively⁶⁴. The Criminal Code has also made extensive provisions against rape and abduction of girls under sixteen years of age. The punishment for rape is life imprisonment with or without caring.

Exploitation

The Black’s Law Dictionary defined exploitation as ‘the act of taking advantage of something especially the act of taking unjust advantage of another for one’s own benefit’⁶⁵. In the context of this paper, this would include child

⁶² Nation Centre on Child Abuse and Neglect Interdisciplinary Grossary on Child Abuse and Neglect: Washington DC U.S.A Department of Health Education and Welfare 1978

⁶³ C38 LFN 1990

⁶⁴ S.11

⁶⁵ BO Garner *Black’s Law Dictionary* West Publishing Company USA P.619

marriage, with all the possible health hazards of RVF and VVF⁶⁶, child labour, and child trafficking (especially for sex). All abuses do not only cause physical and emotional trauma but also hamper the child's education which is a sterling right of the child.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse will involve failure to provide food, weather appropriate clothes, safe and clean home, and supervision. This would also mean inflicting physical pain on the child capable of impairing the right of life. Female Genital Mutilation may come in here.

4. Challenges to Effective Child Care and Protection in Africa

Africans have some common endemic features which have the effect of staling implementation.

- a. **Structural and work process barrier:** These could be related to the working of the tribunals or family Courts, as the case may be, or even the application of the protective laws.eg. The act in Nigeria does not protect all children in Nigeria. Materials, and budgets for implementations could also be the problem.
- b. **Community and Parental Cooperation:** The sin of silence is a major factor here. This is centred on parents refusing to report culprits especially if they are close family members.
- c. **Stigmatization:** Community members may be nonchalant at the misfortune of others and even resort to name calling. The attitude of the police in cases of sexual abuse and rape is another bottle neck.
- d. **Non-existence of 'Homes' to place children who need it:** these are not very readily available where required
- e. **Ignorance:** many African parents see their children as insurance for their old age. Education is also an issue here. When parents are educated, they are better able to take care of their children without needing their financial contribution.
- f. **Poverty:** Poverty is a major factor in child neglect and deprivation. For a poor family a child at work is an additional source of income creating a vicious cycle of poverty.
- g. **Entrenched Tradition:** People with extended blood line often live together and there is so much trust that sometimes children have been sexually abused or even impregnated by second cousins, uncles and so on.
- h. **Broken Homes:** When this occurs, children find themselves living with one step parent or the other. This can expose such children to abuse.
- i. **Depression:** Depression caused by mental imbalance could expose children to abuse. Temporary insanity caused by excessive drinking could make an adult abusive and violent against people around them whether children or adults.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The welfare of a child should be everyone's business. Without them, there is no viable future. We have made the laws, the policies and the strategies, let all hands be on deck to nurture, protect and make a human being out of every child.

Eradication of Poverty: effort should be made by African State to attain SDG 1 (Eradication of extreme poverty) as it has been seen that extreme poverty could be a stumbling block in proper child care.

Harmful Traditional Practices: All these practices that are inimical to the dignity of the human person should be abrogated eg Male preference, FGM and Child Marriage.

⁶⁶Rectovaginal Fistula VesicoVeginal Fistula of dripping both urine and faeces

Advocacy: This is essential to educate the unsuspecting parents of the evils on the society as they affect the welfare of their children.

Family Planning: Parents should be educated on the need to have the number of children they can comfortably take care of. This way, they will not have to give some out to people who will use them as hawkers or companions for beggars.

Social Activities of Adults: Every sexual encounter by a healthy adult man and woman is potential exercise for producing a child. Children are products of marriage and not the other way round. It is reprehensible to consciously bring a child into the world in a manner that makes him/her a vulnerable among the vulnerables.