

MOVING BEYOND CULTURAL PLURALISM IN ADDRESSING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

An abstract of the Project by Evelyn Amenze Iduoze

The purpose of this project was to examine the level of awareness of parents and children in Nigeria concerning child rights protection and determine efforts to move beyond the current cultural pluralism associated with the implementation of Child Rights Act using Ibadan and its environs as the case study. This is considered important due to the level of non-implementation of the Child Rights Act in the country. The study made use of a mixed method of research to assess the opinion of the participants that were selected from a non-government organization, Children Matters, which is focused on empowering children in Oyo State. A total of 15 social workers working with non-governmental organizations were used as respondents for both the focus group discussion and survey conducted. The findings showed that only some educated parents are aware of the Act while most of the parents protect their children as an obligation. It was also discovered that the children are less aware of the Act too and lesser efforts were made by the government towards publicizing the Act and the need to protect the children. The results further indicate that several non-government organizations are making efforts towards improving the level of awareness for both the parents and the children and that there is a need to find a balance between the provisions of the Child Rights Act in the country with the realities and cultural practices of the people. Moreover, it was suggested that more seminars be conducted for the children and the parents, integrate the Child Rights Act into the curriculum starting from the nursery to the secondary level, and translate the Act into the three major languages, Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa.