

Child Marriage in Gofye Kuje Area Council Abuja, Northern Nigeria: Implications for Girls

An Abstract of the Thesis By

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The thesis focus on child marriage in Gofye community, Abuja, northern Nigeria. Child marriage is one of the most practiced traditions in the northern parts of Nigeria which ultimately violates the rights of the child with its attendant consequences. The causes of child marriage are complex, interrelated and dependent on individual and family circumstances and contexts. The research employed a purposive sampling that enabled the strategic selection of participants from the community. In order to explore the attitudes towards child marriage in this community, Focus Group Discussion was adopted as a format of discussions to help in probing further the dynamics, implications and consequences of the practice in question. The research finds that in addition to the plethora of causes, family socio-economic status and education are two primary factors that fuel the practice. Other findings prove that the religious and cultural aspects to child marriage, while supporting the policies that serve as checks, provide poor implementation, commitment and political will needed for strong advocacy for education of the girls, and marriages in adulthood.