

Promoting Child Rights in Africa: The Untold Positive Aspect of the African Culture and Tradition

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Abstract : On many occasions, the link between human rights and culture in Africa is tainted with speculations that African traditions and culture impede human rights. Seemingly also, literature from Africa highly supports the approach of cultural relativism instead of the universalism approach to human rights. This approach has been regarded by many as an unwillingness to accept human rights as universal. While it has to be appreciated that in different communities, there are positive and negative elements of culture, including in Africa, the positive aspect is hardly seen in African culture. This paper, employed documentary review and interviews to collect data. Various documents were reviewed including international and domestic legal materials and literature. Data from documentary review were verified through interviews in Morogoro and Shinyanga regions in Tanzania. Qualitative approach was used to analyse such data where a thematic content analysis was used. The study found that there are positive aspects of African tradition and culture including those promoting child work (as opposed to child labour); some aspects on child protection which should be embraced. However, still some aspects such as child marriage and inconsistent with child rights. It is pivotal that therefore that measures are be adopted to address them.

Keywords : child rights, customs, tradition, Africa

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