CULTURAL PRACTICES AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN BOR, JONGLEI STATE, SOUTH SUDAN

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ABSTRACT

The study sought to examine the role of cultural practices in protection of the rights of children. The study objectives were; identify the cultural practices that interfere with the rights of the child; examine the children’s rights that would be respected, protected and fulfilled and assess the measures taken to address the protection of the rights of children. The study employed a descriptive survey design, using quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. This study was carried out within Bor-Jonglei State, South Sudan. The sample included 150 respondents. An interview guide and self-administered questionnaire were used to identify sociodemographic characteristics and collect all data required for the study. Major findings revealed that there are social abuses as far as the rights of children are concerned. It was significantly revealed that cultural practices affected children’s actions, group cohesion and elicited social psychological disturbances. The study concludes that forced and early marriage as a form of culturally-justified violence against girl-children or women was a violation of human rights. The study recommends that there must be government support to journalists and other media professionals who may contribute to social mobilization by providing information of the highest quality, reliable and ethical standards concerning all aspects of child rights.