

# Chapter 11

## Transient Marriages, Child Rights Abuses, and Mediatic Gap: A Theoretical Coverage of Crime Instigators in Nigeria

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### **ABSTRACT**

*A few abusive occurrences in the Third World escape the lenses of the media, portending danger to our collective existence. One such social ill that defied the radar of news coverage is the growing transient consummation and abortion of conjugal relationship implicating male gender and instantiating abuses affecting the children from such relationships. Regrettably, the 'hit and run parenthood' posture attendant of this practice often populate the crime cells cross-culturally and raises the probability of social dislocation laden with colossal cost to societies. Consequently, this chapter attempts to descriptively investigate the depth of this sexual pervasion and the predicaments of children raised under such milieu. A passionate appeal is thus made to galvanize dissuasive participation in such practices and to generate more media attention in order to alleviate the excruciating socio-economic condition and discourage crime among the affected children.*

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## **BACKGROUND AND STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The nature and conditions of children all over the world present myriad of setbacks in realizing their full potential as future adults. Mostly in their ages of ‘human becoming’, setbacks appear remarkable in their accessibility to functional education, qualitative health, self-protection and better condition of living. Comparatively, the lives of children are overwhelmingly more affected than those of adults due to their powerlessness and precariousness in confronting annihilable threats surrounding their existence. Due to the realization that we seem to live in violent and increasingly difficult times bearing its pernicious rage engulfing the world of children, pragmatic steps at arresting the tide then becomes necessary (Collins and Makowsky, 2005:262). Hitherto, deplorable attention has attended the deprivations affecting the children globally, only in the latter half of 20<sup>th</sup> century did the world community formally decide on a common accord that children should have rights and that violence of any kind against them constitute abuse and ultimately unacceptable infringement of those rights. This translated into a codified policy put in place to guide the handling and treatment of the minors, with the U.N.O. taking the lead. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child sought to find means to protect children from abuse, to eliminate the root causes of abuse, to apprehend and heal the abuser and to rehabilitate and integrate abused children so that they can live normal lives. (Arnaldo, 2001: xvi). Drawing conclusions from the provisions enshrined in the international convention, children should have the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. Further supports were also put in place by regional blocks to drive the global concern on the inalienable rights of the children. In own region, the indigenous instrument “African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990), also represents a concerted effort to extricate children from all forms of maltreatment and this was formulated with the view of ushering them into a purposeful future and for the enhancement of better condition of living. Unfortunately, there are number of inhibitants that are making this unrealizable and setting children on a collision course with multiple abuses. With empirical cases of persistent abuses of children intercontinentally, it then behoves on governments across board to help families and guardians who cannot afford the basic requirements, to fill the gap by providing the most essential—with regard to food, clothing and housing (CRC, article 27). Outside the institutional mandates that are expected to be mitigated by governments, better living conditions for children is often a herculean task under the current milieu of economic condition across the globe and this is helping to fan abuses at varied levels. The core of inhibition threatening the existence of children which incidentally becomes the focus of this discourse resides in the private arena of the home, family patterns, parenting styles, and the consistently depreciating economic capacity of the caregivers. The problems

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