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VALUE OF CHILDREN AS A DETERMINANT OF POPULATION GROWTH IN AFRICA

Adam Adem ANYEBE¹

¹Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Administration, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria- Nigeria

ABSTRACT

A key factor that influences fertility in Africa is the value placed on children and some of the determinants of this value are socio-cultural and economic in nature. This study therefore, attempted to examine the extent and dimension of the influence on population growth in the continent. Documentary research was employed in data collection and it was revealed that to many African parents children mean continuation of lineage, acquisition of social power, availability of labour force, security in old age, and blessings from God and any attempt to regulate the number of the children would provoke some divine retribution. This explains why family planning is unpopular in many parts of Africa.

KEYWORDS: Value of children, Population, Growth rate, Old age security, Policy.