

The Girl-Child Situation in South Western Nigeria: An Assessment

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ABSTRACT The position of the girl-child is still nebulous in most African societies. As a result of Nigeria's social structure, largely characterized by the practice of institutionalized patriarchy and polygyny, the girl-child faces a lot of discrimination in many spheres of the society such as education, health, nutrition, household chores. Further, she is a victim of many harmful traditional practices. Following from this, the girl-child has a feeling of worthlessness, low status and negative self-esteem. Employing both quantitative and qualitative methods, the paper tries to investigate the reasons behind the multiplicity of constraints that the girl-child faces. The results show that although there have been some remarkable improvement in the status of the girl-child, there are still discrimination manifest in the areas of sex preference, education, household duties and inheritance. Finally some suggestions have been made to ameliorate the problems.