

Discordant Perspectives on Girl Fertility and Egg Donation in an African Context

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ABSTRACT The aim of the study was to assess the extent to which girl fertility and egg donation are understood in an African context. The study surveyed discordant ideas about girl fertility and egg donation in Africa. A survey of literature showed that girl fertility is largely understood from a cultural perspective in some African societies. There are various beliefs that surround girlhood and womanhood in Africa. The concept of egg donation is a fairly new phenomenon in African literature. It was revealed in this study that some of the girls in Africa embrace egg donation as a form of empowerment for girls and women who fail to conceive. It is argued in this study that the donation of eggs could be based on altruism and financial benefits. The study highlights some of the unethical practices that could be perpetuated by international egg donor agents and how girls and women could be exploited unknowingly. It is argued in this study that global forces in support of egg donation could have a domineering effect on traditional African beliefs that are against assisted reproductive technologies. The literature survey depicts the desire by egg donors to be in contact with their genetic children and the biological mothers. The controversy surrounding laws that prohibit contact between egg donors, receivers and children is discussed. Future studies can focus on laws on egg donation and rights of egg donors and embryos in Africa.