

Who is a Child? The Definition of a Child Essay

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This research paper looks at the definition of a child as expressed in four fields: international law, international child convention, Sharia and Islamic law, and Arab countries. A child is considered any person below the age of 18 years of age. However, each of the four fields has its own modifications of the definition. For instance, the international [law](#) and international child conventional loosely consider the age of 18 years as the upper limit of childhood, as they provide a room for countries in which the age of majority may be attained earlier than 18 years. In the four fields, a child is considered dependent on their parents and communities for protection and financial and social support. However, the four fields have a few controversies in the way they define and treat children. For instance, [Sharia](#) and Islamic laws want children aged 7 years and above held responsible for their actions and subjected to corporal punishment if found guilty of criminal offenses. On the other hand, the international law and international child convention prohibit corporal punishment of children regardless of their age. According to the international law, a child is defined as any person below 18 years of age. The upper childhood age limit of 18 years may however not hold in countries where children attain age of majority earlier (Buck 3). About 192 member countries of the United Nations agree with the definition of child as set by the international law. As a rule, children have fewer rights compared to adults. This implies that children are expected to operate

under the care of their parents or any other responsible adults or guardians who are supposed to help them make important decisions affecting their lives. Internationally, children beg...

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