This study is prompted by the clamour to legalize abortion in Kenya and other countries worldwide. The researcher's curiosity was particularly triggered by a suggestion that abortion is a human right. Given that the United Nations considers human life to be a basic human right, common sense dictates that abortion cannot be a human right. Yet, this does not appear to be the case and the United Nations seems to condone abortion. This raises a serious incoherence and, in particular, we discern a contradiction that is inconsistent with basic philosophical principles. It is against this backdrop that this study set out to investigate the meaning of life, human rights and abortion, to determine whether abortion can really be a human right.

The study is premised on the centrality and preservation of life as a basis of any talk regarding human rights. It suggests that any discussion on life and abortion must revolve around scientific knowledge regarding the development of human beings and abortion procedures. In the present study, this knowledge was obtained from sources in major libraries in Nairobi as given in the methodology section of chapter one.

The central thesis is anchored on scientific knowledge as well as on natural law as core frameworks. Scientific knowledge grounds the development of human being together with abortion procedures. This helps to determine in an objective way what sort of a being the fetus is. The abortion procedures too help to determine the nature and being of the fetuses. Natural law, on the other hand, gives the basis of human rights. We have also endeavored to concretize our thesis within the context of a specific African world view, to test the viability and validity of some of our arguments. Specifically, a reconstruction of the Duruma world view of life and abortion, gathered through intensive interviews from a sample of fifty respondents, reveals an ethic that respects all life and recognizes the unborn as human beings whose life need protection.

This study has demonstrated that the main objective of human rights is to safeguard human life. It has also demonstrated that the embryos and fetuses are human. Consequently, abortion, which undermines human life, cannot be a human right. This comes out from an analysis and evaluation of the main concepts, catalysts to abortion and arguments that are shown to be faulty.

The study finally recommends, among other things, that the United Nations needs to give a clear point, one that is consistent with scientific knowledge, when it considers as the beginning of life. The population control movement's ideas need to be carefully evaluated before being adopted especially when it has a close relationship with IPPF. Further research is also recommended from African communities with regard to life and abortion. Finally we recommend that there is need to “discover” the real reasons behind abortion support given that it has been demonstrated that it (Abortion) is not a human right.

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