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Against The Adoption of Transnational Children

Nowadays, many able couples are willing to adopt children. They are adopting so from their countries of residence or other nations. Adopting children from a foreign country seems to have become usual. The U.S media reported that foreign families have adopted a total number of 50,000 children in the past ten years (Howell 26). Eighty percent of the adoptions are by American families according to the report. Consequently, people need to consider whether it is good for the orphans. Even though it is fine to adopt children who come from the same or near places, doing the same for children from a different country will pose problems to them, their parents and adoptive parents as well for a number of reasons.

Transnational adoption is also referred to as inter-country adoption or international adoption. It means that a family adopts a child who was born in a different country. Adoption of transnational children, therefore, means that an individual becomes the legal parent of a kid who is from a foreign country. Transnational adoption is not usually easy when it takes place within a country. Every child who is adopted internationally has a double identity and multiracial or multicultural perspective of life. Transnational adoption or international adoption also has a number of political, legal, trans-cultural, and trans-racial issues. Nations have different rules

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regarding adoption. Generally, the adoptive parents must meet the legal requirements of adoption for both their resident country and that in which they wish to get a child from. Many countries also have strict and well-established rules regarding the process, while others completely forbid transnational adoption. For example, most African states require that the adoptive parents be permanent residents of the countries in which they reside (Howell 23). In America, one has to work with an adopting agency with the help of an attorney. The procedure is filled with many processes, because of the long procedures that are involved. There are other reasons that make transnational adoption an inefficient choice for anyone who is willing to get a child from a different country.

Adopting a child in America takes months, and doing the same outside the US will definitely take longer. Consent from parents of children who are raised in orphanages also has to be obtained before they are given out for adoption. Laws that govern adoption in every country determine the process. The exercise may be strenuous and could consume a lot of money since attorneys' fee is involved as well as the constant trips from one country to another. More often than not, transnational adoption may be forbidden in some countries, whereas parents in some cases do not want to give out their children.

Transnational adoption is not only stressful to the adoptive parents, but the adopted children experience a number of challenges as well. The idea of moving to a different country may be exciting to a child. They imagine how life will change for the better than they have lived in the orphanages. Others also dream of having caring parents, lovely homes, and all the good things that come with having a family. However, the truth is that the family turns into an interracial one, since the adoptive parents are often of a different race when transnational adoption takes place. The children may eventually suffer from racism in their new homes.

Friends and relatives of the adoptive children may also fail to consider them as family members. They may repeatedly make them feel uncomfortable, unwanted, and may even make open remarks of how much they are unwelcome in the family. Racism will also extend to places where the children go to school. The same negative gestures may be directed at them, thus, making their lives miserable. As a result, children may experience social stigma that affects their growth. Some may even turn out to be antisocial or run away from their homes in worse cases.

Children will always be happy when they are adopted from the orphanage, because they will be taken care of by new parents. They will also have a better environment to grow, receive good education, and have a brighter future. Adoption is, however, suitable for a baby who is not old enough to know the truth. Children who have lived in another country for several years will have some problems that are related to cultural differences when they are adopted by foreign parents. The challenges include language barrier, religion, and custom differences. Others who are adopted in a foreign country will also have difficulty when talking with their new parents and their classmates at school. The problem may contribute to poor academic performance, thus, making life in their new environment unbearable.

The second problem is associated with religious matters, since societies in different nations have dissimilar beliefs. For example, people in Thailand tend to believe in Buddhism, whereas Christianity is most popular in America. A child who is adopted from Thailand by American parents will find it difficult to adapt to the new religion. In addition, transnational children will encounter different customs in their new home countries (Hearst 36). They will have to eat unfamiliar foods and celebrate different festivals. The fact that some international students cannot adapt to American food means that children who are adopted from different countries may face the same challenge.

Additionally, foreign children may not behave the same way as the parents who adopt them, especially those from foreign nations. They may also feel sad when they are told that they are not their biological parents. The information cannot be hidden from them, since it will be evident from the difference in their races. They will doubt their relationship with their parents, which means that they can easily think that they had been abandoned before meeting their present parents. For instance, some celebrities have adopted orphans from other countries with different skin colors (Tsaliki, Frangonikolopoulos, and Huliaras 17). Such kids might be confused about the differences between themselves and their parents.

Homesickness is another serious issue for people who are adopted at the teenage age. Most of them have many memories of their home countries just like international students. They will want to keep in touch with their friends in their motherland, which is impossible since demands of the new parents may bar them from communicating with people at home. As a result, they may miss their friends and lack people to talk to when they are living in different countries. From a different perspective, there are a series of strict requirements for families that adopt children from another country. In some countries, they must get permission from local authorities before they consider taking in a kid. For instance, people in China are supposed to meet several legal requirements before adopting a child. A couple's annual income must be more than 80,000 dollars before they are allowed to adopt a kid from the nation.

Adopting transnational children is also difficult for parents who are giving out their children. In most cases, the parents do not have a say in the entire process. For example, children who are put up for adoption in the United States are mostly from the Latin community. Others come from different countries whose children are raised in orphanages because of lack of resources to feed, clothe, and educate them. Some children find themselves in orphanages

because of death of their parents and lack of relatives who are willing to support them. Parents are usually absent in debates and talks before adoption of their children. They do not even get a chance to decide conditions under which their children should be raised (Marre and Briggs 12). The process turns into emotional burden to the parents because of separation from their beloved children.

In conclusion, adopting foreign children is not a good idea for the kids as well as their families. Strange environment, different appearance, and homesickness are some of the main problems for children, whereas strict requirements are a big challenge for families that want to adopt a child. However, people ought to have enough preparation and responsibility, if they have to adopt children. Adoption may be a good decision for a couple that is willing to have children, but they are unable to bear their own. While fulfilling their dream of having kids, they can give a bright future to a child whose parents could not afford it. The exercise should, however, be conducted within countries in order to keep the disadvantages of adoption at minimum.

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