

## Should parents be obliged to immunize their children against common childhood diseases? Or do individuals have the right to choose not to immunize their children?

At this moment in time, with spectacular growth and substantial advances in medical science taking place far and wide, a vigorous debate has arisen as to whether or not parents should be pressurized into vaccinating their charges/offspring. However, I take the view that with us living in a world replete with evidence-based research, it is imperative for parents to abide by the findings of scientists' surveys. That is to say, the responsibility lies with every parent to inoculate their children against various diseases.

Some individuals are of the opinion that irrespective of the situation, no curbs should be imposed on human discretion over their decisions. They draw attention to the essence of a concept, namely free will, which is the ability to choose between different possible courses of action unimpeded. Moreover, they arguably draw attention to the fact that some vaccines may have side effects such as allergic reactions. Although the issue adverted to might be true, it is worth mentioning such side effects are extremely rare and undoubtedly the drawbacks of vaccines are eclipsed~~windled~~ by the benefits, hence the significance of due vaccination for children.

However, as far as I am concerned, ignorance and lack of knowledge are to blame for such notions owing to the fact that parents are to shoulder the responsibility to shield their children from contracting diseases, and all the more so, some of them are life-threatening and incurable though preventable. By the same token, the stubborn resistance of some parents to immunizing their own offspring could render other vulnerable individuals in jeopardy, inasmuch as some of these conditions are contagious. Furthermore, it is worth bearing in mind(that?) nowadays, thanks to developing vaccines people are not anymore suffering some of the? infectious fatal diseases such as smallpox and cattle plague which have already been successfully eradicated.

The main conclusion to be drawn from this discussion is that parents should not be entitled to have the right not to immunize their children. Far from it, strict

regulations should be set and enforced to compel them to vaccinate their children albeit reluctantly, lest they jeopardize their children's health.