

FGM rep made by Asli Yussuf Keinan

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The meeting started at 10:30. It was organized by the people of Arid land total of 21 members attended the meeting only three out of 7 the 25 members are literate hence the members having hard time to understand what they are suppose to do because they were issued with books and they did not know what to write because they didn't know how to read and write.

After I conversed with one member asking her if there is any member who is ex-circumciser she told me there is no one of that nature.

The facilitator was Hindia from general hospital and the meeting officially started when the guest arrived and the facilitators started with award of greetings and introduced herself and asked the members to introduce themselves.

After the introduction, facilitator asked the members to give / suggest the norms to use the two days. There are highlights of the norms: -

1. One speaker at a time
2. No unnecessary movement
3. Observe silent
4. Respect once opinion
5. For those who have mobile use silent mode.
6. Keep time for prayers, lunch e.t.c.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Expectation is what is expected when coming the seminar i.e. the agendas to be discussed.
- Knowledge of FGM
- Get knowledge from one another
- Highlighted by members

FEARS:

Members said they don't have fears but another said my is why we are summoned here.

Opening Remarks.

- Introduction to FGM
- Origin of FGM
- Practice (Discussion)
- Who person – decision makers in the family
- Type of FGM
- Diagram of normal

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- Externalia it is parts and function definition- of FGM: Female Genital Mutilation / Cuttings Somalia (Gutnin)

Origin

- Pharaonic – Discussion described as Punishment by Arabs to girls in order to suppress sexual desire.
- Practice by sahabas

Reasons why FGM is practiced who performs the decision makers in the family.

The members suggested that this in the Quran it is written in the Quran to practice it.

Percentage of practice of FGM.

Somali	- 97
Abgusii	- 96
Massai	- 94
Mijikenda Swahili	- 5
Embu	- 4
Taita taveta	- 44
Luhya	- 1
Luo	- 1
Other	- 21
Meru	- 41
Kamba	- 27

Reason why FGM is practiced:

- To suppress sexual feelings.
- Fear of the girls bringing shame
- Fear of people abusing us of not being circumcised
- To please men in marriage
- Fear of one becoming prostitute
- It is continuous traditional trend.
- To preserve virginity
- Men will refuse to marry them
- Religious purpose.
- It is customary
- Cultural / norm and way of earning money.

Those who carry out Who perfumes.

- Old mothers who have knowledge on circumcision
- The decision maker is the man.

Who makes decision

- Both parents are involved in making the decision.
- The first decision made is the mother. Another member suggested that women perform with the permission of men.

Facilitation of the parts of the vagina and functions:

Parts being removed by clitoris and the two lips and applying arable gums and herbs to tighten the parts together.

- Skene's and bathocins glands - lubrication of the vagina (intercourse).
- Vagina orifice - Allows escape of menstrual flow. Sexual intercourse and birth of the baby
- Urethral meatus - Allows emptying of the bladder within a few minutes.
- Clitoris - Assists women to achieve sexual sensation.
- Perineum - Supports the pelvic organs and separate the vagina from anus.
- Labia majora – Protects structures inside.

TYPE I

Excision of the prepuce with or without excision of parts all of the clitoris.

TYPE II

Excision of the clitoris with partial or total excision of labia manora.

TYPE III

Excision of parts or all of the external genitalia and stitching / narrowing of the vagina opening (Somali) (infibulations)

TYPE IV

Unclassified includes pulling of the labia practiced in Uganda.

Who does the cutting

- Traditional practitioners, commonly elders by women in community.
- Sometimes traditional birth attendants
- Medical workers perform FGM.
- The age they are circumcised is between 5 - 10 for girls.
- The child is blind folded plunking the eyes.
- Anxiety.
- Pain

Immediate implication

- Pain, failure to heal as a result of wounded sepsis
- Anxiety
- Bleeding to death
- Psychological problems
- Injuries due to tying
- Pain in urinating
- Infections
- Bleeding due to shock leading to death.
- Problems are encountered during the menstrual period.
- The practice can lead to Hiv/Aids and hebertitises B.

PUBERTY / ADOLESCENCE

Complication

- Amplication during birth and menstration period, sickness as a result of its: - infections, depression, poor performance at work / school, painful micturation / mantal conflict.

Mediate / physical complication

- Shock
- Death
- Injury to adjacent tissue of urethra, vagina perineum and rectum.
- Fracture or dislocation resulting from forceful holding down of girls and girls struggling due to the resultant pain.
- Failure to heal as a result of women sepsis.

Pregnancy complication

- Infection in urinating
- Back pain

Labour pain

- Foetal death
- Maternal death
- Prolong labour

Delivery

- Bleeding

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- Generous episphy during birth / un-cleanliness that is stinging due to clothes of blood and remains of urine.

Obstetrics complications

- Antenatal complication and complication in early labour.
- Prolonged labour and lor obstruction following FGM earlier in life.
- Foetal distress as a result of FGM performed earlier in life.
- Maternal death post partum attributed to FGM.
- Foetal death (still birth & early neonatal death) as sequelea of FGM.

Gynaecological complication

- Difficulties in menstrual flow.
- Calculus
- Recurrent urinary and reproductive tract infections.
- Infertility
- Difficulties in passing urine as a result of partial blockage of urinary meatus.

Longterm complication

- Vesilon vaginal fistula
- Psyhosis - Mental problem
- Visilon vaginal - Fistula - Opening between vagina and bladder allowing urine to flow freely
- Recto - Vaginal fistula - Opening reaction & vagina allowing stool to pass.

Over view

The members lack the anatomy of carrying the practice FGM. Knowledge & skills of carrying out circumcision. They were just doing FGM not knowing where to cut where the urine pass, where sexual intercourse take place. They were just cutting any part.

The facilitators highlighted that not only FGM but also use of herbs, soaps to make the parts of the vagina to tighten.

After conversing with the members they suggested that it is cultural thing and cannot be rooted out from the society that was the suggestion they highlighted.

Sunnah originated from a woman called Umuyatia, she was told by the prophet to stop circumcision she refused and later he told her to just cut the clitoris.

Gynaecological complication

- Difficulties in menstrual flow
- Calculus formation in the vagina

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- Vesico - Vagina fistula (VUF) recto-vaginal fistula (RUF)
- Reproductive tract infections
- FGM and Hiv

Suggestions

The members asked if we will not circumcised how will the girls behave?

- One member suggested that the girls will just move around with even down Kenyan people or with men walking side to side /hand in hand.
- The members were asked if they will stop FGM themselves by not circumcising their daughters and suggested it is very hard.

Recap of Day I

- Learnt about FGM
- Female genital mutilation
- FGM affect women health
- That FGM result / cause infections during the reproductive health leading to infertility.
- FGM cause foetal death
- Diseases
- FGM cause severe form of complication which are longterm affecting health of a young lady predisposing her to VUF and RUF removal of the wombs.
- FGM causes menstrual disharmony
- Immediate complication of FGM
- Foetal distress
- Cause herbertitis B and Hiv/Aids
- Unnecessary growth caused by FGM leading to keloids causing one to undergo operations.
- Origin of FGM
- Warts (infections) - caused by lack of basic diet / lack of vitamins / immunity system. (inborn & intercourse result).
- Can cause bleeding during death.

General attendance of day 2

Total of 26 members attended the seminar and raised on questions pertaining (FGM) if it is religious thing and made their own remarks but said they will practice sunnah type. They all suggested that it is done to suppress sexual feelings, that was the major reason.

The Sheikhs that were facilitating said they are encouraging people to practice sunah type and said being disciplined depends with the brain / once attitude.

Religious Background

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Sheikh was invited to facilitate and say if practice of FGM is a religious practice or cultural. The Sheikh said that there is nowhere / specific place mentioned in the Quran.

But it is in Hadith Bukari & Muslim. In the Hadith there is somewhere in the hadith where a man abuse one that his mother was a circumciser.

In the Islamic religion it is forbidden one to practice or carry out FGM and is liable for punishment in the hereafter mutilation is forbidden.

In the hadith is written and the prophet said if you will only cut the clitoris that is the only part to be cutted.

It is religious aspect to just cut tip of the clitoris that is what the religion dictates. Mutilation is what is forbidden (FGM).

Overview / observance made by Sheikhs

The Sheikhs realized that the old women circumciser practice FGM but when they attend seminars they say that they will not circumcise girls but practice to in their homes that is something that is their and everyone agreed they do practice.

Even in the area that have big Islamic state they do practice but some of them practice sunah type which will not be discarded practice by many generations and generations to come.

Many Sheikh agreed type and stayed firm on the discussion they conclusion. The government should allow the sunnah type. Although it is government policy hence suggested the government to change that policy and medical personnel.

Another Muslim scholar said FGM female genital mutilation has no basics in Islam. The Sheikhs suggested that it is women responsibility and also for others to rise their eye brose and keep watch much on women affairs.

And also to watch norms and culture they should not allow to intermingle and intermarry with other without considerations and urged them to have strong principles because Somali women just intermarry with other down Kenyan tribes hence many were married by other tribes.

The Kenyan law dictates right to sexual & integrity and right to reproduction and is hampered by FGM.