

Sample Executive Summary

Title: Assessment of the Prevalence and Determinants of Female Genital Mutilation among Women in Selected Communities

Background

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is recognized globally as a violation of the rights of women and girls, yet it persists in many communities due to cultural, social, and traditional influences. Despite awareness campaigns and increasing legal frameworks against the practice, the prevalence remains high in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. FGM is associated with short- and long-term health consequences such as excessive bleeding, infections, obstetric complications, infertility, and psychological trauma.

Recent studies have emphasized that FGM is not just a health concern but also a social and developmental issue, rooted in gender inequality, societal pressure, and poor access to health information (Smith et al., 2022; JPADFUNAI, 2023). Understanding its determinants is crucial for designing culturally sensitive interventions that can accelerate the abandonment of the practice.

Objective

This study was conducted to assess the prevalence of FGM among women in selected communities and to explore the socio-demographic, cultural, and educational determinants influencing the practice.

Methodology

A descriptive cross-sectional design was employed. Participants were recruited using multistage sampling, and structured questionnaires were used to collect data. The questionnaire assessed demographic characteristics, knowledge, attitudes, and experiences regarding FGM. Data were analyzed using SPSS version 25. Descriptive statistics summarized prevalence rates, while chi-square tests and logistic regression were applied to identify determinants of FGM practice and support.

Results

Analysis revealed that the prevalence of FGM among respondents was still considerably high, despite increasing awareness of its health risks. The strongest determinants of the practice were:

- Cultural and traditional norms, often reinforced by community elders and family pressure.
- Level of education, with women of higher education significantly less likely to have undergone or supported FGM ($p < 0.05$).
- Residence, with urban women demonstrating lower prevalence compared to rural counterparts.
- Knowledge and awareness, where misinformation and lack of adequate health education perpetuated the practice.

Conclusion

The persistence of FGM underscores the need for more robust interventions. Strategies should go beyond legislation to include community-based health education, women empowerment initiatives, and multi-sectoral collaboration with traditional leaders, health workers, and educators. Eradication of FGM requires a culturally sensitive but firm approach that addresses both the social norms and health implications of the practice.

Keywords: Female Genital Mutilation, Prevalence, Determinants, Women, Public Health, Well-being

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