

Infact oral Mutilation

Michael Amoo



DUE: January 19, 2024

CYS 323 01

James Talley

In my opinion, Infant Oral Mutilation (IOM) is a complex practice that should be viewed through the lens of cultural relativism. I do understand that IOM, which does involves the removal of infants' tooth buds, is often deeply rooted in cultural and religious beliefs. From this perspective, I believe it is essential to respect these traditions, as moral codes are not universal but rather culturally specific. To me, no culture's ethics are inherently superior to another's, and practices like IOM should be accepted as cultural norms (Lukes 2008).

I believe that religious justifications play a significant role in maintaining practices like IOM. Many cultures engage in body modifications as part of religious rituals, believing these acts are important to their spirituality. With that said, IOM seems to be a religiously warranted practice essential to a community's spiritual beliefs and cultural identity (Summers 2007).

However, I acknowledge the ethical concerns surrounding the acceptance of practices like IOM, especially when they cause harm. Critics argue that cultural relativism becomes problematic when it justifies actions that violate individual rights or cause unneed suffering. Personally, I believe certain universal ethical principles, like preventing harm, should take authority over cultural traditions (Donnelly 1984).

In conclusion, even though I respect cultural and religious beliefs, I believe it’s important to balance this respect with the need to safeguard individuals from harm. The best approach, in my eyes, is to engage with communities in a way that honors their traditions while encouraging practices that safeguard health and well-being, a balance in a way.

# Works Cited

Donnelly, Jack. "Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights." *Human Rights Quarterly*, vol. 6, no. 4, 1984, pp. 400–419.

Summers, Megan R. *Marking the Body, Marking the Soul: The Religious Dimensions of Body Modification*. University of Georgia, 2007.