



FGM Fact-Sheet

Ten lies about FGM

- That FGM is a good tradition
- That it's a religious requirement(s) ordered by the ancestors or God
- That it's a necessary rite of passage to womanhood
- That it ensures cleanliness or better marriage prospects,
- That it prevents promiscuity
- That circumcised women are loyal to their spouses
- That excessive clitoral growth is not good
- That it preserves virginity
- That it enhances male sexuality,
- That it facilitates childbirth by widening the birth canal

Effects of FGM

- Intense pain leads to shock during and after the procedure. Nearly 97 percent of women experience intense pain during and after FGM.
- Wound infections that sometimes result in the infection of the life threatening tetanus.
- Damage to adjoining organs in the girl's body from the use of blunt instruments especially by unskilled operators
- Results in urine retention from swelling and/or blockage of the urethra
- Painful or blocked menses
- Recurrent urinary tract infections
- Increased risk of maternal and child morbidity and mortality due to obstructed labor
- Women who have undergone FGM are twice as likely to die during childbirth and are more
- Infertility due to complications emanating from the practice
- FGM increases the risk of HIV infection – often the same unsterilized instrument is used on several girls at a time, increasing the chance of spreading HIV or another communicable disease.

Why men and boys

- ❖ Because of the non-existence of explicit resources, tools and guidelines that directly target men and boys in efforts to eradicate FGM
- ❖ Because among many FGM practicing communities, everything that relates to sexuality is taboo and women have been forced to cope with it on their own bodies and their daughters' bodies, and have been responsible for it, whereas men have maintained a more distant perception on the practice.
- ❖ Because social and cultural barriers (including patriarchy and male-female power relations) have continued to dominate discussions around FGM and minimum efforts have been made to mainstream male engagement in FGM programming
- ❖ Because of misconceptions and stereotypes that men do not need to be involved in FGM eradication other than oversee its continuation and the further torment of girls and women.
- ❖ Because once the men get information on the health risks and they really understand what it is, they usually get shocked and they can react pro-actively hence reducing the vice.
- ❖ Because popular beliefs hold that female genital mutilation prevents women from having children outside marriage, which is the height of hypocrisy and that it inclines them to carry out the practice.

What men and boys should do to stop FGM?

- Support efforts towards the eradication of the practice by not allowing another girl to go through the same.
- Encourage boys to marry girls who are not circumcised
- Allow girls to participate in alternative rights of passage
- Report any member of the community planning to circumcise their daughters
- Help spread information about the effects of FGM and why it should never be practiced
- Form or join a group whose main objective is to mobilize other men or boys towards the elimination of FGM

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