

Stigma Experienced by Traditional Male Circumcision Stakeholders in the Eastern Cape, South Africa

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KEYWORDS Botched Circumcision. Clinical Hazards. Traditional Nurses. Social Rejection

ABSTRACT The study explored the stigma experienced by traditional male circumcision (TMC) stakeholders during and after male adolescents' rite of passage from boyhood to manhood. A qualitative research paradigm was used. Data were collected through individual interviews and focus group discussions with 28 participants. An interview guide served as a data collection instrument for both the focus group discussions and the interviews. The findings revealed an array of stigma-related phenomena resulting to: newly graduated men succumbing to a state of self-stigma; families and loved ones suffering pangs of abject stigma; unreliable traditional nurses subjecting initiates to molestation, brutalisation and stigmatisation; coupled with them also suffering a state of loneliness/hopelessness. This paper recommends indigenous and informal interventions; the promotion of the tenets and philosophies of Ubuntu tenets; stigma to become part of the community meeting agenda; and community network forums to be used as platforms of awareness against the phenomenon of stigma.