

The Perfidy of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) among the Girl Children with Examples from a Few African Countries

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Abstract The present paper pits health rights of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) initiates against possible cultural benefits from the practice. The paper is a review of literature. Findings indicate that FGM/C sacrifices the rights of the girl children to education; violates their health rights; the act is inhuman and causes physical, psychological, and emotional trauma; stifles children's rights to decision making pertaining to their lives; the act negatively intereferes with the initiates' future reproductive sexual health; and could be a leeway to disease contraction such HIV/AIDS. In addition, the paper identifies the following as possible factors to a lagged-out process of abandoning the practice:cultural identity; observance of rites of passage; serving partriachal and religious norms; forum of strengthening cultural leadership; tool of enhancing sexuality and controlling sexual libido; having human rights viewed as a tool of colonialists and imperialists; and applying western models and methodologies in the campaign against FGM/C. The paper suggests the following strategies to attempt to completely annihilate FGM: banning the rite; mainstreaming culturally sensitive education; increasing advocacy and lobbying against it; increasing the number of human rights NGOs to fight it; countries to domesticate child friendly instruments; and adopting a community development approach to tackling FGM/C.