

Study Females' Attitude toward Female Genital Mutilation

Background: Female genital mutilation/cutting has complicated social and cultural foundations that outweigh the requirements and ideas of individuals. Female genital mutilation/cutting is seen as a normal part of female socialization in societies that practice it.

Aim: The present study was carried out to assess females' attitude toward the practice FGM.

Subject & Methods: A descriptive cross-sectional study was used. The study population consisted of 2837 females in family health centers (FHCs) in different settings at Beni-Suef. A Structured Interviewing Questionnaire sheet was used to collect data. Likert scale was used to assess attitudes.

Results: The most of studied participants (70.4%) were rural residences, 90.2% were highly educated, and 96.8% were Muslim, 72.8% of studied participants' mothers were educated. About 29.7% of participants are suffering from complication after FGM, about 82.1% of them suffering from pain after the surgery. More than one-third of females (35.5%) had an unfavorable attitude towards (supporting) FGM/C and 44.3 % of them had a favorable attitude towards (refusing) FGM/C. Unfavorable and neutral attitude score (49.3%) was more prevalent among females with circumcision. There was a significant relationship between circumcision and the participant's attitude (p-value <0.001). Traditions and culture was the main reason for performing FGM/C as stated by females (77.4%).

Conclusion: There is an association between unfavorable attitudes and experience of mutilation. Unfavorable attitude score was more prevalent among mutilated females. There was a significant relationship between exposure to mutilation and the participant's attitude. Traditions and culture was the main reason for performing FGM/C.

Recommendations: Develop of an educational programs and brochures for mothers to change their behavior and attitude toward of FGM/C.

Keywords: Attitude, Female, Genital Mutilation