

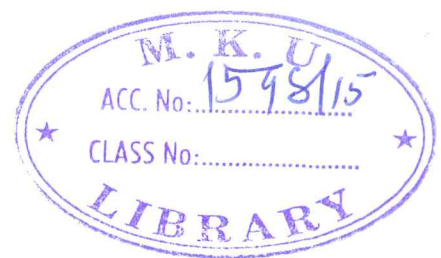
**IMPACT OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION ON PERFORMANCE OF GIRLS IN
PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN OMOYO ZONE, KISII COUNTY**

BY

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the ritual removal of some or all of the external female genitalia. FGM is typically carried out by a traditional circumciser using a blade or razor (with or without anesthesia). The practice can be found in communities around the world (Oloyinka 1997). Certain ethnic groups in Asian countries practice FGM, including in communities in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. In the Middle East, the practice occurs in Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen, as well as in Iraq, the State of Palestine and Israel.

In South America, certain communities are known to practice FGM in Columbia, Ecuador and Peru. And in many western countries, including Australia, Canada, Europe, the United States and the United Kingdom, FGM is practiced among diaspora populations from areas where the practice is common. (WHO 1992)

In Africa, FGM is known to be practiced among certain communities in 29 countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. (Carr D. 1997).