

**EFFECTS OF CIRCUMCISION AND FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING ON PERFORMANCE
IN EDUCATION IN SAMBURU COUNTY, KENYA**

BY

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was to find out the effects Circumcision and Female Genital Cutting (FGC) on education performance of boys and girls in Samburu county in Kenya. FGC is the partial or total removal of the female external genitalia (WHO, 1995). It results in immediate Physical Problems, for example, intense pain and/or hemorrhage that can lead to shock during and after the procedure, hemorrhage can also lead to anemia, wound infection, including tetanus, damage to adjoining organs from the use of blunt instruments by unskilled operators and urine retention from swelling and/or blockage of the urethra (Koso-Thomas, 1987). According to Rushwan, H. (1996) it also leads to long term complications like Painful or blocked menses, recurrent urinary tract infections, dermoid cysts, and keloid scars(hardening of the scars), infertility and increases the risk of HIV infection. It is against this background that the researcher set to find out the impact of FGC on education for girls.

The objectives of the research were to find out the impact of Circumcision in boys and FGC on: Class attendance, discipline, academic performance, transition to the next level of education after FGC in girls, and if there are administrative or educational arrangements to assist the students after undergoing Circumcision and FGC to advance their studies. The study used survey design to collect data by using questionnaires on literate girls and boys, teachers and the administration. The targeted population was girls and boys in primary and secondary schools especially form two and three classes and class six to eight. Ten percent of the students from ten different schools were sampled from each school. Through the head teachers they were issued with questionnaires which were given to two groups of ten girls and boys each group aged between twelve and eighteen.

The study showed that majority of boys and girls who were circumcised and cut respectively performed badly or their performance dropped compared to their performances before the action. The study used a questionnaire to gather information, in which it used both qualities and quantities analysis approaches in order to get a bigger picture both in number and data. Since the main purpose of the study was to determine effect of circumcision and Female Genital Cutting on their performances in schools, social cultural factors were blamed on how they changed the girl and boy child mostly to the negative on matters of education.

It was found that education was being affected by the social, cultural and economic factors such as Moranism, lack of food, drought, war, poverty, poor payment of school fees, cultural education, cultural ceremonies and festivals, early marriages, and lack of basic necessities to girls and practices. The research found that cultural practices contributes up to 80% in poor performance and drop out if school in both girls and boys in the Samburu community.

It was recommended that the government and non-government organizations should help sensitize and educate the community as they are lagging behind by still clinging on the retrogressive cultural practices which make them lag behind on matters of education and development in Kenya. They should be educated on the importance of education especially to all

genders and the negative effects of FGC and barbaric practices which have no good role to play in their midst such as Moranism.

The government should also initiate economic activities in this area through the help of the local government to help parent to provide basic needs to their children, build more boarding schools, be serious on laws protecting the girl child as the endangered species in the area, support feeding program fully especially when there is drought and famine and subsidize school fees in the area to encourage school attendance and this will automatically promote higher enrolment and good performances in schools in Samburu county.