
Assessment of the prevalence of female circumcision below 15 years in Sudan

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Abstract :

Background: "All procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons . The practice is an ethnic marker, rooted in gender inequality, ideas about purity, modesty and aesthetics, and attempts to control women's sexuality. Around 125 million women and girls in Africa and the Middle East have undergone Female Genital Mutation also occurs in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Syria & Oman.

Objectives: Estimation of the prevalence of circumcision among girls under 15 years and the factors influencing it in Sudan.

Methods: A descriptive study to determine the prevalence of circumcision among girls under 15 years and the factors influencing it that (90) families were selected by systematic random sampling from Talbab as a rural area of Bahri state & (90) families from AL- Safai as an urban area of Bahri state in Khartoum city during 2010 .

Results: The study revealed that most of parents were educated in Talbab region while all of parents were educated in AL- Safia region .

Less than quarter of girls were circumcised of graduated fathers and half of them were circumcised of high school fathers while all of them were circumcised of primary school fathers in Talbab region as urban area , in AL- Safai region as rural area there were no females circumcised of graduated fathers & only 15% were circumcised of high school fathers while all of girls were circumcised for completed primary school fathers. More than half of females were circumcised in rural area as Sunni type while decreased to 20% in urban as Pharaonic type .The main causes of circumcision were traditions , social norms, purity in both areas while mother was the main influencing factor in urban area & grandmother in the rural area. About half of the circumcised cases were done by the midwives in rural area & more than half by practiced traditional attendance in urban area . Most of mothers had education about the complications of circumcision . For complications most of the girls had bleeding, dysurea & infection in both areas. There were on death cases in both areas .

Conclusion: Still Circumcision of young girls is a problem in Sudan that mostly in rural areas which effects by education of fathers , believes of mothers & grandmothers that the traditions , social norms & purity the most causes of circumcision.

Keywords : girls under 15 years, circumcision

Introduction:

All procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons (World Health Organization)^[1] . Around 125 million women and girls in Africa and Middle East have undergone Female Genital Mutation^[2] . The practice occurs in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Oman.^[3] & Sudan the prevalence of female circumcision forms 50-90% with type I, II, III . The practice is an ethnic marker, rooted in gender inequality, ideas about purity, modesty and aesthetics, and attempts to control women's sexuality.^[4]

It is supported by both women and men in countries that practice it, particularly by the women, who see it as a source of honor and authority, and an essential part of raising a daughter well^[5]. female circumcision effects by traditions and social norms in a number of communities

with large number of spread in African countries and some Asian countries and not based on any religious basis in Islam or Christianity^[6]. It is one of the harm & violent practices against female but not recognized because of frequent practicing where carried out in Egypt in between the age of 6-10 years, that before menstruation^[7].

- Female circumcision has been a controversial issue for thousands of years in many of the named countries prohibiting the practice, it is believed that female genital mutilation originated in Africa as far back as the fifth century B.C. and has taken place in ancient Egypt, ancient Rome, Arabia and Tsarist Russia , Ancient female Egyptian mummies were found to be circumcised, "suggesting that it was practiced as a sign of distinction^[8]. Circumcision affects 120-130 million women in the world and million women subject to circumcision annually,

"especially" in Africa [6]. Affected by the process of the circumcision of girls aspect of social traditions and beliefs and section of society considers of purity and linked to religion, where gave elders Al- Azhari the past decades and the current contract council possibility of circumcision of girls note that circumcision is obligatory for male and female and second states that it's sunna for male and female the third view is a duty for male & honor for female [8] [9]. According to a 2013 UNICEF report based on surveys completed by select countries, female circumcision is known to be prevalent in 27 African countries, Yemen and Iraqi Kurdistan, where 125 million women and girls have undergone circumcision [10]. There are three types of circumcision, the 1st is Pharaonic type (Type I) which means cutting the clitoris & part of labia majora & minora, the 2nd is Sunni type (Type II) which means cutting the fore skin of clitoris while the 3rd type (Type III) means cutting the clitoris & labia majora & minora with suturing the area and eep a small incision to exit the blood during the menstrual cycle and to urinate which is the most severe form and the wound is opened up for intercourse and childbirth [11]. The health effects depend on the procedure but can include recurrent infections, chronic pain, cysts, infertility, complications during childbirth and fatal bleeding [12].

A report in 2012 found that the prevalence rate of female circumcision was 59% based on clinical examination of about 2000 Iraqi Kurdish women found were Type I, and mostly among girls at age from 4–7 years [13], while in Egypt the prevalence of female circumcision was 78–97% (Type I, II and III) & in Sudan the prevalence forms 50-90%. (type I, II, III) [14].

For Sunni type religious Said female circumcision is similar to male circumcision that did not remember any harmful effects on health [15] & it,s performed because of the popular belief

that it,s a sacrifice and accelerates the growth of the child to the female and maintains abstinence as the friction of the clitoris costumed raises the girl must be circumcised, as well as the reproductive system gives beautiful shape, hygiene and believe it increases the opportunity to marry the couples [16] [17].

A conference of the German human rights organization in Egypt in 2006 that consider girls forced on circumcision is a crime that punishable and issued by the Ministry of Health prohibits circumcision hospitals and doctor should be punished for the process of circumcision [18]. There has been an international effort since the 1970s to eradicate this practice & take all necessary steps to end it. It has been outlawed in most of the countries in which it occurs, but the laws are poorly enforced [19].

Methodology:

A descriptive study to determine the prevalence of circumcision among girls under 15 years and the factors influencing it that (90) families were selected by systematic random sampling from Talabab as a rural area of Bahri state & (90) families from AL- Safai as an urban area of Bahri state in Khartoum city during March - 2010

Study design:

A descriptive study that a house hold survey had been carried out in Talabab as a rural area of Bahri state & AL- Safai as an urban area of Bahri state in Khartoum city during March - 2010, by using an interview questionnaire had used for girls under (15) years period of the study.

- An interview questionnaire form had been designed by the researcher was based on:

1. Education of parents.
2. Types of circumcision.
3. Factors influencing circumcision.
4. By home circumcision had been done.

5. Knowledge of mother about complications.
6. Complications of circummcision.

Results:

Figure (1) shows that 93% of girl’s fathers were educated & 87% of their mothers were educated in Talabab region(rural area) while100% of parents were educated in AL-Safia region urban area)

Figure 2 shows 19 % of girls were circumcised for graduated fathers ,50% for high school&100% for completed primary school fathers in Talabab region (rural area) while there was no circumcison of girls in AL-Safai region (urban area) for graduated fathers , 15% were circumcised for completed high school fathers and 100 % were circumcised for completed primary school fathers

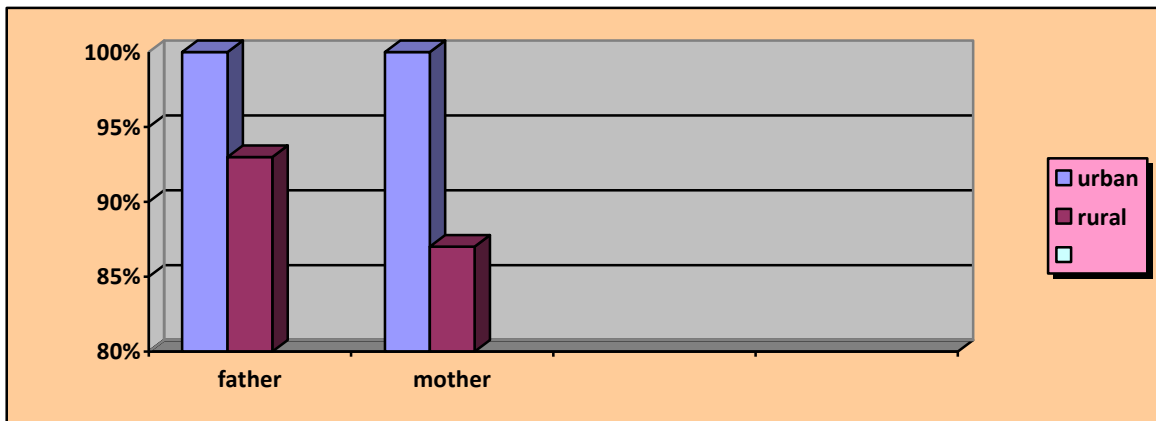


Figure 1: Education of parents in urban and rural area

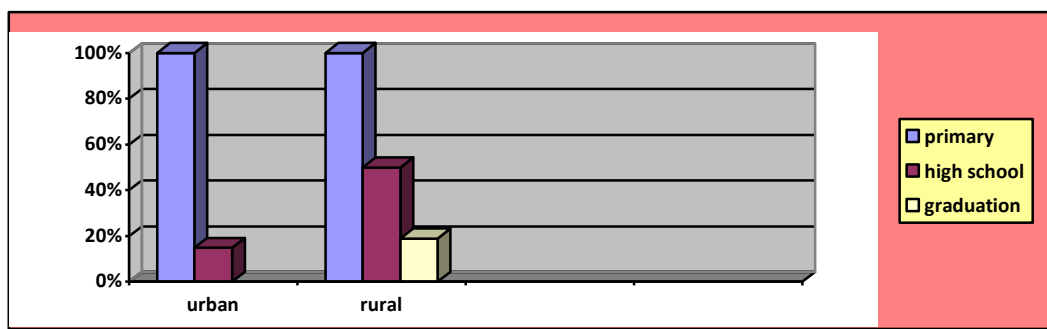


Figure 2: Association between education of parents & circumcison in rural and urban area

Figure 3 shows that circumcision increased to 60 % in rural area & all cases were of Sunni type while decreased to 20% in urban area but of all cases of were Pharaonic .

Figure 4 shows that traditions , social norms and purity were the main cause of circumcision in both areas & the mother was the main influencing factor for female circumcison in urban area while the

grandmother was the main influencing factor.

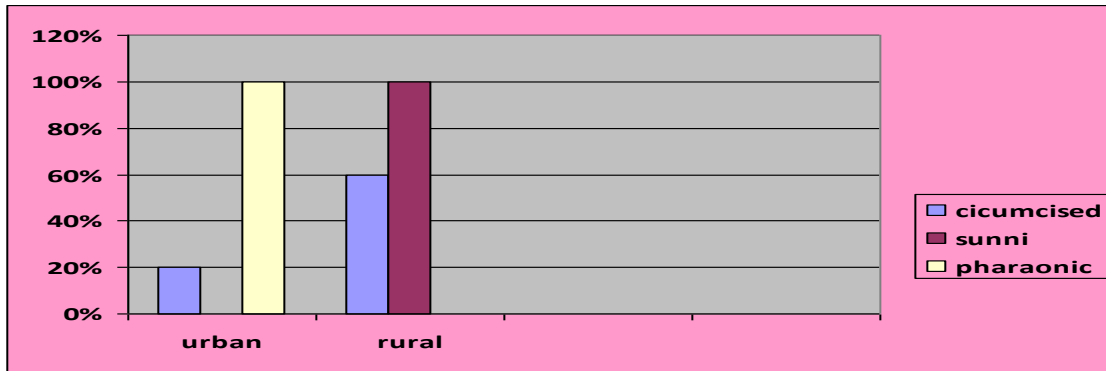


Figure 3 : Percentage of circumcision in urban and rural areas

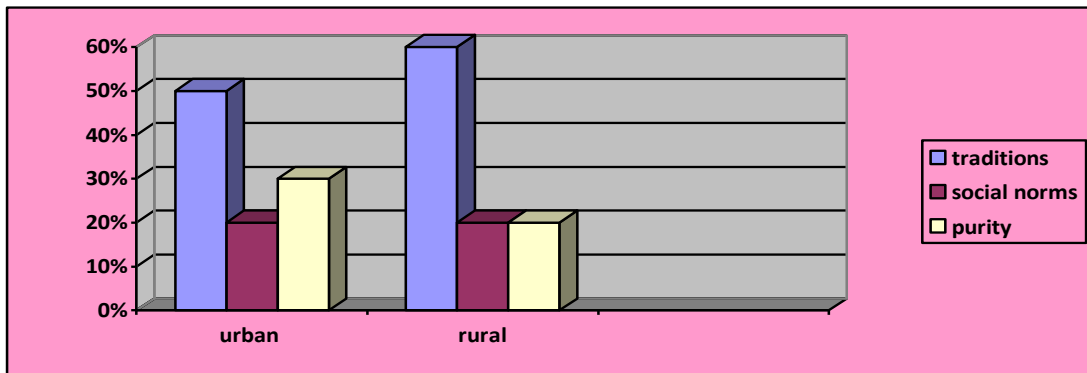


Figure 4: Factors influence of circumcision in rural and urban area

Figure 5 shows that 55% of circumcision were done by practiced traditions in urban area e 70% were done by midwives in rural area.

Figure 6 shows that 70% & 90% had bleeding in urban & rural area respectively , 50% & 70% had infection in urban & rural area

respectively while 60% in urban area & 40% in rural area had dysurea .

There were no death cases in both areas.

-Most of the mothers had knowledge about the complications that may occur because of the circumcision for both areas

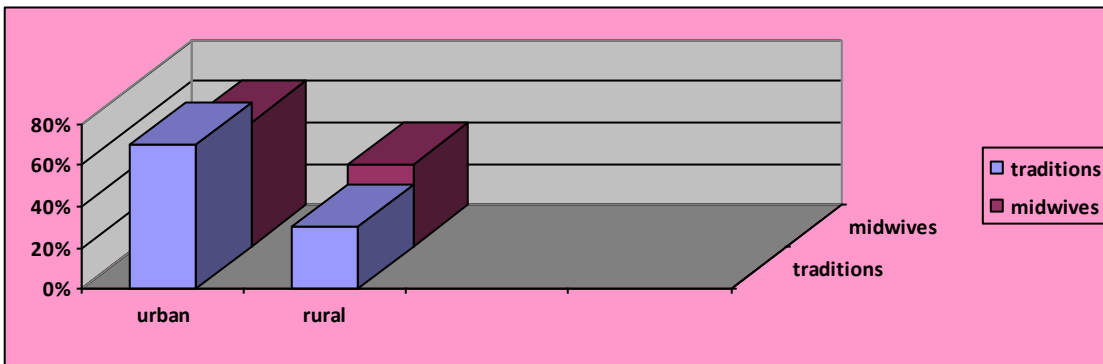


Figure 5 : Persons who had don circumcision in rural and urban areas

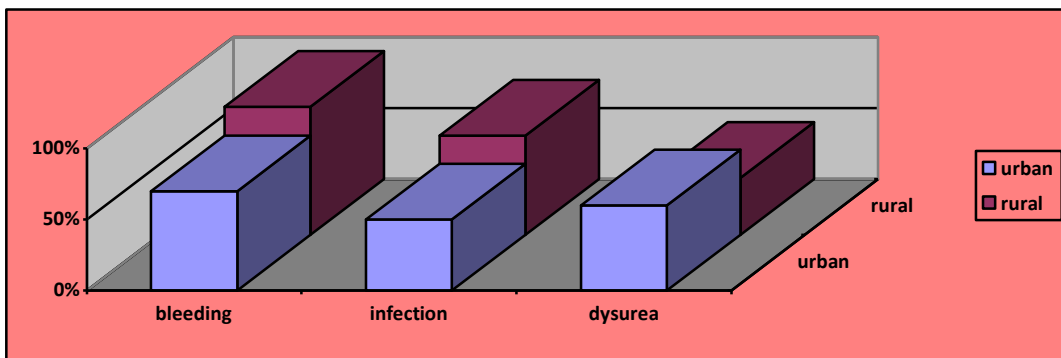


Figure 6 : Complications after circumcision

Discussion:

The rate of girls circumcision decreased when rising the level of education, especially father's education which consistent with previous studies that less circumcision of girls when rising educational level of the parents.^[20] The percentage of circumcision among girls was more than half in rural area and decreased to less than quarter in urban area which was less than previous studies as in Egypt the proportion increased to 91% in 2006 and in the Sudan was 89% in 2006 , in Nigeria 80 % while decreased to 28% in Senegal and Kenya in (2005) , a study by the Egyptian Ministry of Health found the proportion of genital mutation of girls in schools was 50 % distributed in rural and urban areas.^{[21] [22]} In a study in Sudan from 1989 until 1999, the rate of circumcision was 87% of married women that 69% in Darfur and the highest in the

north and by 99 %.^[23] Traditions were the main reason for circumcision in both rural and urban areas. Mother and grandmother were the main influencing factor for girls circumcision in urban and rural areas , the rate of support for girls circumcision decreased as in Egypt the rate was 82 % in 1995 then decreased to 63% in 2008 while in Sudan support ratio decreased from 79 % in 1990 to 51% in 2008.^[24] All cases of circumcision in the city was Pharaonic type (Type II) while it was of Sunni type (Type I) in rural area which different from previous forms that eight million have experienced Type III, which is predominant in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.^[25]

Most of the circumcision procedures were done by a midwife & authorized traditions in rural & urban areas respectively which is usual in many societies where female circumcision traditions common in the community ,^[26] most mothers

knew the complications that may occur because of the circumcision" bleeding in the city and bleeding with dysurea in the countryside, which is part of the complications that occur with circumcision as inflammation, dysurea, difficult menstruation, complications of mental and neurological and infertility.

Conclusion : Circumcision of young girls is a problem in Sudan

mostly in rural areas which effects by education of fathers, believes of mothers & grandmothers

Recommendations:

- Increasing health awareness and cultural community, especially the "moms through cultural seminars, group meetings people's councils and mosques, media of all kinds and the adoption of the program of healthy cultural poses health problems in the community.
- Increasing awareness of harmful habits that not based on any religious or medical basis.
- Training of health workers (midwives, nurses) on the correct way to legitimate circumcision in communities, Which is the circumcision of the tradition in the community.

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