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Knowledge, Attitude and Perception of Medical Students at the University College Hospital, Ibadan towards Female Genital Mutilation

Connaissances, Attitudes et Perceptions des Étudiants en Médecine du University College Hospital, Ibadan à L'égard des Mutilations Génitales Féminines

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: Female genital mutilation (FGM) is prevalent in many parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Healthcare providers are key players in its medicalization; hence, effort must be put in place to discourage this harmful practice right from inception of medical training.

METHOD: A descriptive cross-sectional study conducted amongst clinical medical students at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, between February and March 2022. Purposive sampling was utilized to recruit 380 participants. A self-administered questionnaire was used to collect data which was analyzed using IBM SPSS version 26. Descriptive statistics were generated, and Chi-square was used to test the association between categorical variables. Logistic regression analysis was performed, and p-value was set at 0.05.

RESULT: Three hundred and eighty questionnaires were administered, however, only 355 (93.4%) were completed and suitable for analysis. The mean age of the respondents was 22.9 ($\pm$ 2.0) years. There were more males (58.9%) than females (41.1%) with majority being of Yoruba (73.2%) extraction. Sixty-eight (19.2%), 170 (47.9%), and 152 (42.8%) respondents had good knowledge about classification, complication, and medicalization of FGM respectively. A significant association ($p < 0.05$) was noted between religion, gender and years of training with knowledge about FGM. The majority of the respondents' attitude towards FGM was that of objection (91.3%) and outright abolishment (90.4%).

CONCLUSION: Prevention of FGM should be a collaborative effort by healthcare practitioners through the incorporation of programmes to equip trainees on the strategies to eliminate FGM. Medicalization of FGM should be discouraged through targeted mass education and enforcement of penalties.

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KEYWORDS: Knowledge, Attitude, Perception, Female Genital Mutilation, Student

RÉSUMÉ

INTRODUCTION: Les mutilations génitales féminines (MGF) sont courantes dans de nombreuses régions d'Afrique, d'Asie et du Moyen-Orient. Les professionnels de santé jouent un rôle clé dans la médicalisation de cette pratique ; il est donc essentiel d'agir dès la formation médicale pour décourager cette pratique néfaste.

MÉTHODOLOGIE: Il s'agit d'une étude descriptive transversale menée auprès des étudiants en médecine clinique du University College Hospital d'Ibadan entre février et mars 2022. Un échantillonnage raisonné a permis de recruter 380 participants. Un questionnaire auto-administré a été utilisé pour la collecte des données, analysées à l'aide du logiciel IBM SPSS version 26. Des statistiques descriptives ont été produites, et le test du Chi-carré a été utilisé pour évaluer les associations entre variables catégorielles. Une analyse de régression logistique a été effectuée, avec une valeur de p fixée à 0,05.

RÉSULTATS: Sur les 380 questionnaires distribués, seuls 355 (93,4 %) ont été correctement remplis et jugés exploitables. L'âge moyen des participants était de 22,9 ans ($\pm$ 2,0). La majorité étaient des hommes (58,9 %) contre 41,1 % de femmes, avec une prédominance ethnique yoruba (73,2 %). Soixante-huit (19,2 %), 170 (47,9 %) et 152 (42,8 %) participants avaient une bonne connaissance respectivement de la classification, des complications et de la médicalisation des MGF. Une association significative ($p < 0,05$) a été observée entre la religion, le genre et les années de formation et le niveau de connaissance sur les MGF. La majorité des participants avaient une attitude de rejet (91,3 %) et soutenaient l'abolition totale (90,4 %) des MGF.

CONCLUSION: La lutte contre les MGF devrait être une initiative concertée des professionnels de santé, intégrant des programmes de formation aux stratégies d'élimination de cette pratique. La médicalisation des MGF doit être découragée par une éducation de masse ciblée et la mise en application de sanctions.

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MOTS-CLÉS: Connaissances, Attitudes, Perceptions, Mutilations Génitales Féminines, Étudiants

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