

**Economic Factors Perpetuating Female Genital Mutilation Among Pastoral Communities
A Case Study of Simanjiro District, Manyara Region Tanzania**

By

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This study was conducted to explore economic factors that perpetuate female genital mutilation in Simanjiro district, in Manyara region. The specific objectives were: (i) to analyze economic factors that motivate Ngaribas to perpetuate the practice in pastoral communities. (ii) to examine the to which extent parents and children benefit from this practice and (iii) to find out the alternative income generating activities to female genital mutilation practitioners. Interviews, questionnaire, and focus group discussion were employed to collect the data, supported by formal discussion with key informants. Both simple random and purposive sampling techniques were used for 104 respondents which included males and females. The study was conducted in Orkesmet, Naberera, and Terrat villeges in which 50 girl students from Orkesmet and Terrat secondary schools, 12 village and traditional leaders, 42 women including traditional birth attendants and Ngaribas. The findings show that economic factors are the major reasons for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The ngaribas perpetuate FGM for their employment, also dowry payment motivates parents to perpetuate the practice. Girls benefit from gifts and recognition by the society which influence them to search for being mutilated. The study also recommends that, there is need to introduce an alternative ceremony for rites of passage for girls, in which non-cutting ceremony for girls after training that covers such topics of health, sexual behavior, marriage, and behaviuor towards the elderly instead of practicing FGM.