

**Socio- Cultural Factors Influencing Female Genital Mutilation Practices  
A Case of Babati District, Manyara Tanzania**

**By**

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In the global context Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has been in existence for about 2000 years. Female Genital Mutilation is the excision of any part of the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 200 million girls and women have been mutilated around the world. This practice is strongly tied to different cultural traditions. Activists have called for international recognition due to its violation of human rights. The study focused on assessing socio-cultural factors influencing female genital mutilation practices in Babati district. This study used both qualitative and quantitative data. Questionnaires were administered to 100 community members. Data were analyzed through the aid of SPSS. The study revealed that marriageability was a major socio-demographic factor that is influencing female genital mutilation practices. This is closely followed by age and education factors. It was also concluded that stigmatization and family tradition were other factors. The community awareness on FGM practices in Babati district was higher. In combating female genital mutilation practices in the study area, it was concluded that village meetings with FGM practitioners was the major activity conducted in the village. Study recommends that the local government in Babati district must support women awareness creation on the negative consequences of FGM practices. Also, there is a need to rectify unfavourable positive perceptions of women towards FGM practices through continuous culturally sensitive information education and communication programmes.