

2004E.C

CIVICS AND ETHICAL EDUCATION ASSIGNMENT

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Preface

This assignment is prepared by grade 11 students. We have worked so hard on this assignment your appreciation is greatly needed. Also to make our assignment interesting we sourced every information resource.

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Introduction to harmful practice

Include female circumcision/genital mutilation, facial scarring, the force-feeding of women, early or forced marriage, and nutritional taboos, traditional practices associated with childbirth, dowry-related crimes, honor crimes, and the consequences of son preference.

Female Genital Mutilation/FGM/

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a cultural practice that started in Africa approximately 2000 years ago. It is primarily a cultural practice, not a religious practice. But some religions do include FGM as part of their practices. This practice is so well ingrained into these cultures; it defines members of these cultures. In order to eliminate the practice one must eliminate the cultural belief that a girl will not become a woman without this procedure.

Erlymarage

Marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for many young women. In many parts of the world Parents encourage the marriage of their daughters While they are still children in hopes that the marriage will Benefit them both financially and socially, while also relieving financial burdens on the family. In actuality, Child marriage is a violation of human rights, compromising The development of girls and often resulting.

Explanation on FGM

Female Genital Mutilation is the term used for removal of all or just part of the external parts of the female genitalia. There are three varieties to this procedure.

1. Sunna Circumcision - consists of the removal of the prepuce (retractable fold of skin, or hood) and /or the tip of the clitoris. Sunna in Arabic means "tradition".
2. Clitoridectomy - consists of the removal of the entire clitoris (prepuce and glands) and the removal of the adjacent labia.
3. Infibulations (pharonic circumcision)-- consists of performing a clitoridectomy (removal of all or part of the labia minors, the labia majors). This is then stitched up allowing a small hole to remain open to allow for urine and menstrual blood to flow through.

In Africa 85% of FGM cases consist of Clitoridectomy and 15% of cases consist of Infibulations. In some cases only the hood is removed

What are the age, the procedure used and the side effects?

The age the procedure is carried out varies from just after birth to sometime during the first pregnancy, but most cases occur between the ages of four and eight. Most times this procedure is done without the care of medically trained people, due to poverty and lack of medical facilities. The use of anesthesia is rare. The girl is held down by older women to prevent the girl from moving around. The instruments used by the mid-wife will vary and could include any of the following items; broken glass, a tin lid, razor blades, knives, scissors or any other sharp object. These items usually are not sterilized before or after usage. Once the genital area for removal is gone, the child is stitched up and her legs are bound for up to 40 days.

This procedure can cause various side effects on the girls which can include death. Some of the results of this procedure are serious infections, HIV, abscesses and small benign tumors, hemorrhages, shock, clitoral cysts. The long term effects may also include kidney stones, sterility, sexual dysfunction, depression, various urinary tract infections, and various gynecological and obstetric problems.

In order to have sexual intercourse the women have to be opened up in some fashion and in some cases cutting are necessary. After child birth some women are re-infibulated to make them (tight) for their husbands.

FGM societies have many claims of why this procedure should be done and these are as follows:

- In most FGM societies one important belief is that this procedure will reduce a women's desire for sex and in doing so will reduce the chance of sex outside the marriage. This is vital to this society as her honor for the family is depended on her not to be opened up prior to marriage.
- Some view the clitoris and the labia as male parts on a female body, thus removal of these parts enhances the femininity of the girl.
- It is also believed that unless a female has undergone this procedure she is unclean and will not be allowed to handle food or water.
- Some groups believe that if the clitoris touches a man's penis the man will die. As well as the belief that if a baby's head touches the clitoris that the baby will die or the breast milk will be poisonous.
- The belief that an unmotivated female cannot conceive, therefore the female should be militated in order to become fertile.
- Bad genital odors can only be eliminated by removing the clitoris and labia minor.
- Prevents vaginal cancer.
- An unmodified clitoris can lead to masturbation or lesbianism.
- Prevents nervousness from developing in girls and women.
- Prevents the face from turning yellow.
- Makes women's face more beautiful.
- Older men may not be able to match their wives sex drive.
- Intact clitoris will generate sexual arousal and in women if repressed can cause nervousness.

The possible solution we came up with is that in order to alleviate the problem

- crating awareness among the community
- Enforcing the law to take action on those who practice
- Taking appropriate action

Explanation on early marriage

Early marriage is a global issue. It is quite common in the African and Asian countries. However, the consequence of early marriage is serious, which can violate the rights of adolescence, both in this generation and the next. It affects the education and well-being of millions of children and has a knock-on effect for the poverty and development of communities. Simply put, early marriage can violate children's basic rights to a childhood, to an education, to good health and to make decisions about their own lives. Early marriage leads to tragedy for a young woman in Africa.

The physical, emotional and social effects of early marriage are varied, but one of the most common outcomes is the withdrawal of girls from formal education. Traditionally people in some rural villages value marriage more than education of the girls. Many girls stop school because of getting married. Husbands of young wives are often older men, who expect their wives to follow tradition, stay at home and undertake household and child-care duties. Schools often have a policy of refusing to allow married or pregnant girls or girls with babies to return. So all the rules, timetables and physical conditions make it too difficult for a girl to attend school and perform her duties as wife and mother at the same time.

Besides education, personal maturity is another problem they have to face in the early marriage. While immature and irresponsible actions may sometimes seem funny before marriage, they can become serious pitfalls within the marriage bond. One of the surest signs of immaturity and irresponsibility in both young men and young women is a lack of willingness to do a reasonable share of work in a consistent, dependable way. A third potential problem of early marriage is the problem of growing apart.

This simply means that while two young people in their middle teenage years have much in common, that in many cases, our ideals and goals change as we pass the teenage years, to such an extent that we may easily find ourselves married for life to a person with whom we will ultimately have very little in common. Additionally, having babies too young, brides of early marriage are at an extremely high risk for fistulas and they have a higher risk of being infected with sexually transmitted diseases and at an increased risk of chronic anemia and obesity. Statistically, child brides have a higher risk of becoming a victim of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and murder.

In order to prevent the early marriage, we should raise consciousness about the extensiveness of early marriage and seriously consider the potential problems it relates. Government should establish safe spaces for girls to gather and socialize to increase access to economic skills and resources. Additionally, we should raise awareness of the health and rights implications of large spousal age differences and inter generational sex. Efforts should be taken to support married adolescent girls by decreasing their economic vulnerability, offering schooling, civic participation, and livelihoods opportunities, developing interventions to reduce their social isolation.

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