



Presentation about FGM project & community perception about HIV/AIDS

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Information about Somali Development ServicesLtd

- Drop-in-session
- Employment and Training
- Childcare Service
- Family Support Service
- Adult Learning Service
- Interpreting & translation Service
- Culture Awareness Training



The FGM Special Initiative:

cpf City Parochial
Foundation
Tackling poverty in London

Initiative of these
three organisations:

 Esmée
Fairbairn
FOUNDATION


the uk fund for
women and girls



The Aim of the FGM Special Initiative:

- Raise awareness among practising communities
- Increase confidence of women, men and young people
- Increase capacity & skills within practising communities
- Strengthen communities voices
- Improve co-ordination



What does FGM mean?

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Cutting or Clitoridectomy (medical term) is a process which involves the complete or partial removal of the external female Genitalia (clitoris) or other injuries which may be caused to the female genital organs for reasons other than that of therapeutic or medical.



Where FGM came from?

- Old Egypt
- Pre-Islamic/or Christianity religions



Types of FGM

- Clitoridectomy: partial or total removal of the clitoris.
- Excision: partial or total removal of the clitoris and the labia (the lips).
- Infibulation: narrowing of the vaginal opening through the creation of a covering seal.
- Other: all other harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical proposes.



Health problems caused by FGM on women

- Immediate complications: severe pain, shock, bleeding, tetanus or sepsis, urine retention, open sores in the genital region and injury to nearby genital tissue.
- Long-term consequences: recurrent bladder and urinary tract infection, Infertility, an increased risk of childbirth complications and newborn deaths.



Who is at risk?

- According WHO: 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide are living with the consequences of FGM. In Africa, about 92 million girls age 10 years and above are estimated to have undergone FGM.
- In UK, 24,000 girls under the age of 15 are at risk of FGM.



The reason why FGM is practised:

- To try and eradicate a female sexual pleasure (FGM does not eliminate all sexual pleasure).
- Purification = to keep the woman a virgin until marriage (less prone to catching diseases, such as Aids).
- FGM is associated with cultural ideals of femininity and modesty = clean and beautiful.



How FGM practice is done and by whom?

- In the villages & rural areas:
 - old women without medical experience
 - No proper instruments
 - unhygienic methods
 - Without anaesthesia

■ In the cities:

FGM is done in the hospitals and it is less suffering for these girls



Link between FGM & HIV/ AIDS

- No evidence that there is link between the two, but
- women can be affected by HIV virus during FGM operation (ways it has been done)
- Polygamy (some Somali men have 2 women and more)



The attitude of the community towards FGM.

- Majority of the people are against FGM. They believe that FGM causes many emotional & physical problems with the women and it should be banned from UK and world.
- Other are for continuation of the practising of FGM and they are thinking that FGM is good for the women.



The attitude of the community towards HIV/AIDS

- Taboo (people don't talk about it)
- Negative perception (community sees it as a punishment from God (because what that person has done))
- Affected person will be isolated from the community, families & friends)



SDS engages the community through:

- Awareness raising workshops
- Survey
- Peer-training
- Setting up community champions who can carry on the project after the funding is finished
- Networking



Real life story:

- 'I visited many years ago my family back home. My family lived in a little village. I was there for four weeks and during my stay there were four young women, who were pregnant, passed away, because of the circumcision; they could not deliver the babies normally'.



Reaction of the community about the project:

- 'FGM has destroyed many women's lives and it is very good if it can be tackled'.
- 'Many people do not know that FGM is prohibited in UK and this project will help them to learn more about the UK law'.
- 'If our daughters are not circumcised, they can not get a good husband, who will be responsible for that'!

Reaction of the community about awareness workshops about HIV/AIDS



- Awareness raising workshops with LASS
- Very useful (they get the correct information about this virus)
- They learn how they can protect themselves against this virus
- Where they can do the test



Question:

Any question?