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## The continuation of female genital mutilation in Nigeria: men's perception and perpetuating factors

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**Background:** Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a public health problem that is widespread in Nigeria. It is of particular concern as it affects the health of women and girls and has been categorized as a violation of the fundamental human rights of women and girls as well as abuse against children. FGM is regarded as “women's business” and as such the views and attitude of women about the practice are widely researched and known. However, very little empirical research has been conducted to attempt to explain the attitudes and knowledge of men about the practice. This study intends to investigate men's perception and knowledge about the continued practice of FGM in a local community in Nigeria.

**Aim:** This study will examine Nigerian men's knowledge, perceptions and attitudes in regards to the practice of FGM.

**Methods:** Mixed-method research approach incorporating a survey and individual interviews will be employed. The study will be carried out among Nigerian men living in Isuikwato Local Government Area Uturu, Nigeria. A convenience sample of 369 men is targeted for the survey while a total number of 12 men will be recruited using snowball sampling technique for the individual interviews.

**Conclusion:** This study intends to provide concrete evidence on the role men play toward the continuation of FGM in Nigeria and to improve knowledge and awareness on the factors that influence support for FGM by men and, thus inform policymakers and programme planners in decision making.