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Awareness of female genital mutilation health complications in a comparison between rural and urban areas in Sudan

Rawan Zein Elaabdeen, Riyan Mobark, Hussein Jaafar and Duaa Mohammadat
University of Khartoum, Sudan

Background: Female genital mutilation (FGM) or female circumcision is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is a serious health problem in Sudan. It causes many complications like bleeding, sepsis, dyspareunia and difficult labour. FGM also violates the human rights of females and can have psychological effect.

Objective: This study aimed to assess the awareness of female genital mutilation complications, attitude and practice and also to do a comparison between Khartoum and Aljazeera states as urban and rural areas respectively.

Methods: A descriptive cross sectional study was done, the data collected using structured interview questionnaires from 138 non-medical individual aged between 15-70 years in June 2018. The study took place in Alhasaheza and Saad Abu-alella hospitals in Aljazeera and Khartoum states respectively. Frequencies and chi-square test were used in data analysis.

Result: The awareness was 81% in urban relative to 52% in rural areas. The attitudes toward FGM in rural and urban are same. And the practice of FGM was more in rural than in urban. The prevalence of FGM in women in this study was found 81% and 82% in urban and rural respectively. Awareness has no association with any one of the sociodemographic data (p-value <0.05) in both urban and rural.

Conclusion: More efforts have to be done to increase the awareness and to strictly prohibit this dangerous practice.

rerezain510@gmail.com