



UNDERSTANDING THE DANGERS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

Dear Students,

Today, we are going to learn about a serious issue that affects the health and well-being of many girls and women around the world. It's called Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

What is FGM?

FGM is a harmful cultural practice that involves the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. This practice is often carried out on young girls, sometimes without their consent.

The practice has no health benefits for girls and women. It causes severe bleeding and problems urinating, and later cysts, infections, as well as complications in childbirth and increased risk of newborn deaths.



FGM practice somewhere in Nigeria



infectious object used in FGM.

Why is FGM a Problem?

1. Physical Health Risks:

- FGM can cause severe pain, bleeding, and infections.
- It can lead to long-term health issues, including complications during childbirth.

Fact: According to the World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM, and over 3 million girls are at risk of cutting each year¹

2. Emotional and Psychological Impact:

- Girls who undergo FGM may experience trauma and emotional distress.
- The practice can affect their mental well-being and self-esteem.

Fact: FGM is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women.²

¹ https://www.who.int/health-topics/female-genital-mutilation#tab=tab_1

² <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>



3. Social and Cultural Implications:

- FGM is often associated with harmful gender norms and stereotypes.
- It perpetuates the idea that girls need to undergo this practice to be accepted in their communities.

Fact: Efforts to end FGM focus on changing cultural attitudes and promoting gender equality.



FGM causes Pains and trauma 1

What Can We Do?

1. **Stay Informed:** By learning about FGM, you are taking a crucial step in preventing it. Share this information with your friends and family.
2. **Speak Up:** If you ever come across someone who is at risk of undergoing FGM, or if you know someone who has already undergone it, talk to a trusted adult or teacher. They can help protect the person from harm.
3. **Promote Equality:** Encourage respect and equal opportunity, equal acceptance between boys and girls. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their gender.

Remember, knowledge is power. By understanding the dangers of FGM, you are helping to create a world where every girl can grow up free from harm.

Infographics:



EndFGM



 <p>PROTECT OUR GIRLS: SAY NO TO HARMFUL TRADITIONS #ENDFGM</p> <p>f X @ @africa_speakout WWW.SPEAKOUTAFRICAINITIATIVE.ORG</p>	 <p>FGM HARMS FOR A LIFETIME: IT IS A TRADITION OF PAIN, NOT OF PRIDE. CHOOSE PROGRESS, NOT HARM!</p> <p>f X @ @africa_speakout WWW.SPEAKOUTAFRICAINITIATIVE.ORG</p>
 <p>FGM IS A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS LET'S BREAK THE SILENCE, BREAK THE CHAINS! #ENDFGM</p> <p>f X @ @africa_speakout WWW.SPEAKOUTAFRICAINITIATIVE.ORG</p>	 <p>GIRLS HAVE RIGHTS TOO! SAY NO TO FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION. #ENDFGM</p> <p>f X @ @africa_speakout WWW.SPEAKOUTAFRICAINITIATIVE.ORG</p>
 <p>FACTS, NOT MYTHS: FGM CAUSES SEVERE HEALTH RISKS. CHOOSE HEALTH, CHOOSE LIFE! #ENDFGM</p> <p>f X @ @africa_speakout WWW.SPEAKOUTAFRICAINITIATIVE.ORG</p>	 <p>GIRLS DESERVE RESPECT NOT MUTILATION JOIN THE FIGHT TO #ENDFGM!</p> <p>f X @ @africa_speakout WWW.SPEAKOUTAFRICAINITIATIVE.ORG</p>

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#EndFGM #16DaysOfActivism