

TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Would Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting influence women's reproductive life experiences?
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Content	Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/FGC) is a harmful practice performed to girls before puberty to control women's sexuality. Objective: The present study investigates the influence of FGM/FGC on women's reproductive life experiences. Methodology: This study was conducted using secondary data analysis of the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) from 2011 to 2017 conducted in 16 countries from the Sub-Saharan African region in addition to Egypt and Yemen from the Eastern Mediterranean region. The influence of FGM/C exposure on reproductive life experiences was estimated through OR and 95% of logistic regression analysis after controlling for women socioeconomic, empowerment, and cultural determinants of FGM. Results: Data from 225,761 women of reproductive age (15–49 years) showed that FGM/FGC was among half (50%) of them. It was universal in Guinea (98%) and among the majority of Mali, Egypt, and Sierra Leone, while it was less than 10% in Togo, Niger, and Uganda. Women experienced FGM/FGC was more to have Early marriage/cohabitation (OR: 1.52(95%CI: 1.49-1.56); Teen pregnancy (OR: 1.25(95%CI:1.23-1.28); Never use of any contraceptive method (OR 1.89(95%CI: 1.84-1.93); Inadequate antenatal care (OR: 1.11(95%CI:1.07-1.14) and Multiparty with 3 + children (OR: 1.36 (95%CI:1.33-1.40), while they were less to have Unplanned pregnancy (OR: 0.42 (95%CI: 0.42-0.44). All of the empowerment factors were protective from FGM, while cultural determinates were strongly increasing the practice. Conclusion and recommendations: FGM/C influences women's reproductive life negatively. Programs aiming to promote women's reproductive health should integrate strategies to eradicate the harmful practice of FGM/C.