

## Relationship between Females' Intention of Mutilating Their Daughters and Demographic Characteristics

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### Abstract

**Background:** Women's intention and attitudes toward ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting were found to be highly correlated with social class, degree of education, and availability to knowledge.

**Aim:** The present study was carried out to assess Relationship between Females' Intention of Mutilating Their Daughters and Demographic Characteristics.

**Subject & Methods:** A Descriptive Cross-sectional in family health centers (FHCs at Beni-Suef Governorate. A Structured Interviewing questionnaire sheet which includes Socio-demographic data, Intention to practice Female Genital Mutilation was used to collect data.

**Results:** About 28.6% of females who had mutilated their daughters were planning to mutilate their other daughters in the future. About 45.2% aged 30 to less than 45 intend to mutilate their daughter. The highest proportion of females who intended to practice FGM/C was among those living in rural areas (59.1%), Intention to practice FGM/C decreased with the increase in the level of education (0.7% among basic (primary, preparatory), 2.9% among secondary educated females, and 96.4% among females with higher education).

**Conclusion:** There is an association between participants' intention of mutilating their daughters and age, residence, marital status, occupation & level of education. The younger the age, rural residences, marriage, low educational level and employed of the female, the higher the percent of females who intended to practice FGM/C.

**Recommendations:** Increase awareness about law against all parties of Female Genital Mutilation.

**Keywords :** Relationship, Females' Intention, Female Genital Mutilation

### Introduction

In various researches, education level was the primary predictor of attitude. Women's intention and attitudes toward ending FGM/C were found to be highly correlated with social class, degree of education, and availability to FGM/C knowledge, as reported in a study conducted in Egypt (Hassan et al., 2022; Dalal et al., 2010; Abd-ELhakam et al., 2022; Hassan, 2020; Abd El Salam et al., 2021; Van Rossem et al., 2015). A higher level of education results in modernizing social, economic, and political structures and alters people's perspectives on who has the power to rule their lives (Hassan et al., 2022; Abd-ELhakam et al., 2022; Ebrahim et al., 2022; Hassan et al., 2019).

Marriage considerably impacted the unfavorable attitude of females, according to research conducted in Ethiopia by Melese, et al., in 2020 (Melese et al., 2020). Since FGM/C regulations

are enforced in Egyptian society, changing attitudes among women due to more information will also influence cultural perceptions of gender relations, which will ultimately help to abolish the practice ((Hassan et al., 2022; Abd-ELhakam et al., 2022; Ebrahim et al., 2022; Hassan et al., 2019; Abd- Elhakam et al., 2023; Melese et al., 2020).

The most commonly claimed reasons for FGM/C were social conventions, religion, ensuring premarital virginity and marital fidelity, enhancing marriageability, and cultural values of femininity and modesty (World Health Organization [WHO], 2020; Mohammed et al., 2022; Ebrahim et al., 2022; Hassan, 2019; Abd-ELhakam et al., 2022; Hassan et al., 2022). The female genitalia is thought to be filthy and unattractive, and the clitoris contains toxins. It is thought to cause impotence in men

and to be harmful to the infant after delivery. One of the major reasons for FGM/C is this belief (ILOKA, 2022). According to a 2014 survey of Egyptians aged 10– 29 years old, the most common causes of FGM/C were customs and traditions (56.7%) and religion (35%) (Abdou et al., 2020; Hassan et al., 2022; Abd-ELhakam et al., 2022; Hassan et al., 2022).

### Aim of the Study

The present study was carried out to assess Relationship between Females' Intention of Mutilating Their Daughters and Demographic Characteristics

### Research Questions

1. Is there Relationship between Females' Intention of Mutilating Daughters and their Characteristics?

### Subjects and Methods

**Research Design:** A Descriptive Cross-sectional study was used to achieve the aim of the study.

#### Subjects & Setting

**Setting:** The study was conducted in family health centers (FHCs) in different sitting at Beni-Suef Governorate.

#### Sample

#### Sample Type

A Convenient sample was used.

#### Sample Size

The study population consisted of all females who were accepted to participate in the study at the time of data collection (A period of six months from the start of data collection) and will be included in the study.

### Tools of Data Collection

A pre-designed structured questionnaire was used to collect data. Data were collected through personal interviews. The questionnaire is divided into two sections:

**Section I:** A Structured Interviewing Questionnaire sheet which includes the following parts: age, residence, level of education, marital status, occupation and experience with mutilation, etc.....

**Section II:** Intention to practice FGM/C: It included questions about the following:

### Validity/ Reliability of the Tool

As for the preparatory phase, the related national and international literature was reviewed. This helped in the preparation of the data collection tools and in writing the review. A panel of 5 experts in the field of maternity, obstetrics and gynecologic nursing reviewed the tools to test their content validity. The modification was done accordingly based on expresses judgment.

### Administrative/ Ethical Considerations

Official permission was obtained by submission of an official letter from the Faculty of Nursing, Beni-Suef University, to the responsible authorities of the study settings to obtain their permission for data collection. All ethical issues had been taken into researchers' consideration during all the phases of the study; the researcher maintained the anonymity and confidentiality for each participant woman. The researcher introduced herself and explained the nature of the study to every woman and asked questions in Arabic for all of them. Women were enrolled voluntarily after the oral informed consent.

### Pilot Study

A pilot study was conducted to test the applicability of the tools, the feasibility of the study and estimate the time needed for data collection. It was conducted on 10.0% of the total number. Modification, omission, and addition were followed as needed according to the results of the pilot study.

### Field Work

Data were gathered over six months beginning in November 2021 and ending in April 2022. The researcher was present at the previously mentioned location until the entire sample size was gathered. Before data collection, the researcher introduced herself to the women and explained the purpose of the study.

### Statistical Analysis

All data were collected, tabulated and statistically analyzed using IBM SPSS 25. Data was supplied, and appropriate analysis was performed for each parameter based on the type of data obtained.

### Descriptive Statistics data were expressed as

- **Count and percentage:** Used for describing and summarizing categorical data
- **Arithmetic mean (X-), Standard deviation (SD):** Used for normally distributed quantitative data, these are used as measurements of central tendency and dispersion.

### Analytical Statistics

**Cronbach alpha and Spearman-Brown coefficients:** The internal consistency of the generated tools was measured to assess their reliability.

**Chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ):** used to see if there's a link between two category variables or to see if two or more proportions differ. For Race tables, Monte Carlo exact probability was used wherever 2 was present.

### Graphical Presentation

Data visualization was done with graphs.

- Coulum chart
- Bie in 3D chart

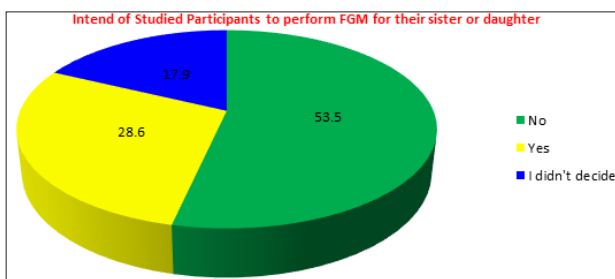
**Results**

Table (1) showed that the most of studied participants were rural residents (70.4%), 90.2% were highly educated, 57.5% were single. About two-thirds of the participants were a student (65.4%).

Variables	No. (2837)	%
<b>Age</b>		
18	2020	71.2
30	719	25.3
45	98	3.4
<b>Residence</b>		
Rural	1997	70.4
Urban	840	29.6
<b>Educational Level</b>		
Basic (primary, preparatory)	46	1.6
Secondary or equivalent	231	8.1
High (university, post-graduate)	2560	90.2
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Single	1630	57.5
Married	1190	41.9
Divorced	15	0.5
Widow	2	0.1
<b>Occupation</b>		
Student	1854	65.4
Work	720	25.4
Not work	263	9.3

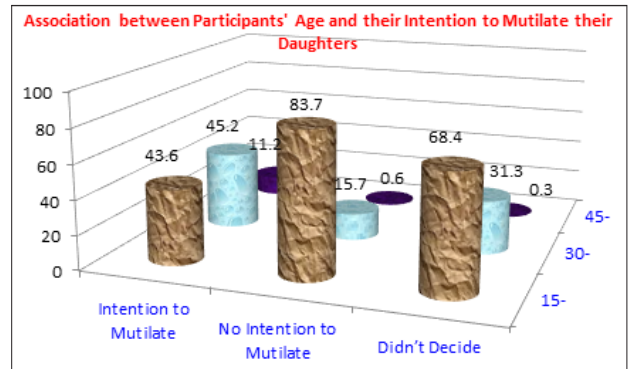
**Table 1:** Socio-Demographic & Personal Characteristics of the Studied Participants

Figure (1): Presents the studied participants' intention to practice FGM/C for their daughters. About 28.6% of females who had mutilated their daughters were planning to mutilate their other daughters in the future.



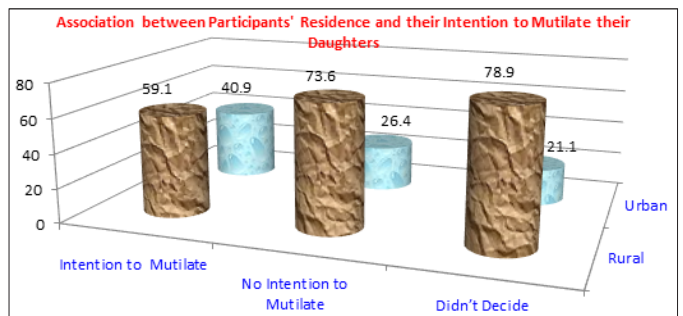
**Figure 1:** Participants' intention to practice FGM/C for their daughters

Figure 2: Presents Association between Participants' Age and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters. It showed that the younger the age of the female, the higher the percent of females who not intended to practice FGM/C. about 45.2% aged 30 to less than 45 intend to mutilate their daughter. While 83.7% aged 18-30 years didn't intend to mutilate their daughter in the future.



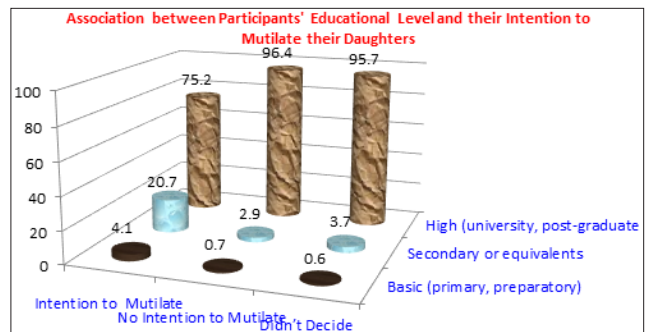
**Figure 2:** Association between Participants' Age and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters

Figure 3: Presents Association between Participants' Residence and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters. Concerning residence, the highest proportion of females who intended to practice FGM/C was among those living in rural areas (59.1%), while 26.4% of females who did not intend to practice FGM/C were among females living in urban areas.



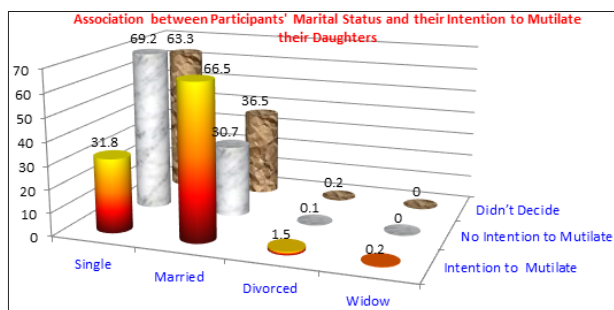
**Figure 3:** Association between Participants' Residence and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters

Figure 4: Presents Association between Participants' Educational Level and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters. Regarding the level of education, the figure showed that the intention to practice FGM/C decreased with the increase in the level of education (0.7% among basic (primary, preparatory), 2.9% among secondary educated females, and 96.4% among females with higher education).



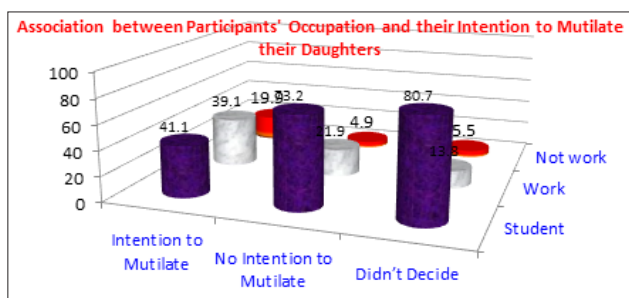
**Figure 4:** Association between Participants' Educational Level and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters

Figure 5: Presents Association between Participants' Marital Status and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters. About 66.5% of married females had the intention to practice FGM/C constituting the highest proportion of the females who had the intention to practice FGM/C. On the other hand, the highest proportion of females who did not have the intention to practice FGM/C was among singles (69.2%).



**Figure 5:** Association between Participants' Marital Status and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters

Figure 6: Presents Association between Participants' Occupation and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters. About 39.1% of employed female has the intention to practice FGM, while the highest proportion of females who had no intention to practice FGM/C was among student females (73.2%).



**Figure 6:** Association between Participants' Occupation and their Intention to Mutilate their Daughters

## Discussion

The results of the current study reveal females' intention in Upper Egypt to perform FGM for their sister or daughter. Near to one third of females had the intention to mutilate their daughters. This in accordance with the EHIS statistics showed that two fifth intended to mutilate their daughters, which was higher than the results above (Ministry of Health and Population [MOHP], 2015). The difference shows advancements in female attitudes, beliefs, and opinions regarding the ending of FGM/C in Egyptian society.

Regarding relationship between Females' Intention of Mutilating their Daughters and Demographic & Personal Characteristics; the results revealed an association between participants' intention of mutilating their daughters and their age. The younger the age of the female, the higher the percent of females who not intended to practice FGM/C.

Concerning residence, the results revealed an association between participants' intention of mutilating their daughters and their residences. The highest proportion of females who intended to practice FGM/C was among those living in rural areas while of females who did not intend to practice FGM/C was among females living in urban areas. This attributed to most of studied female were rural residences who had culture, custom, and tradition support performing FGM/C as religious requirements, and to decrease the sexual desire of females. These reasons were comparable to those reported by Allam, et al., (2001), and Abdou, et al., (2020) in Egypt (Abdou et al., 2020; Allam et al., 2001).

Regarding marital status, the results revealed an association between participants' intention of mutilating their daughters and their marital status. Married females had the intention to practice FGM/C constituting the highest proportion of the females who had the intention to practice FGM/C. On the other hand, the highest proportion of females who did not have the intention to practice FGM/C was among singles. This attributed to most of studied females' culture, custom, and tradition support performing FGM/C as to be an acceptable pride. This reason was comparable to those reported by Allam, et al., (2001), and Abdou, et al., (2020) in Egypt (Abdou et al., 2020; Hassan et al., 2022; Abd-ELhakam et al., 2022; Hassan et al., 2022; Ministry of Health and Population [MOHP], 2015; Hassan et al., 2022; Allam et al., 2001).

Regarding the level of education, the results revealed an association between participants' intention of mutilating their daughters and educational level. The intention to not practice FGM/C decreased with the increase in the level of education. Although there are educated females still have intention to mutilate their daughters. It is surprise to find this result as the majority of the studied subjects were highly educated. But this may be results as most of them were rural dwellers and had special customs and traditions. This is close to a study conducted in Iran that revealed that intention decrease with an increased level of education (Pashaei et al., 2012).

Concerning occupation, the results revealed an association between participants' intention of mutilating their daughters and their occupation. Employed female has the intention to practice FGM, while the highest proportion of females who had no intention to practice FGM/C was among student females. This is at odds with a study conducted in UAE that revealed that employed and educated women were less likely to have undergone FGM/C. highlighting the crucial role that women's education plays in efforts to end FGM/C (Al Awar et al., 2020; Hassan et al., 2023; Hassan et al., 2022).

## Conclusion

There is an association between participants' intention of mutilating their daughters and age, residence, marital status, occupation & level of education. The younger the age, rural residences, marriage, low educational level and employed of the female, the higher the percent of females who intended to practice FGM/C.

## Recommendations

Increase awareness about law against all parties of Female Genital Mutilation.

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