Acculturation and psychic effects of female circumcision: a research on key persons and representatives own language and culture of the Somali community in the NL

The health sector is slowly developing some knowledge and practices on the physical consequences of FGM. The area of psychological care is lacking behind however. For this reason, Keizer conducted a research on the acculturation and psychological effects of FGM among the Somali community in the NL. Consistent with the consulted literature, mental symptoms in the short term express themselves in fear, pain, feelings of loss, 'detachment from one's own body and in some cases, feelings of shame. At the same time also positive emotions are shown, such as joy, pride and relief. Long-term psychological effects are harder to determine. There are a number of possible underlying factors: mental health problems are a taboo within the Somali society, and this may have affected the results. Secondly, the awareness that the mother has not acted out of malice can bring about a reconciliation with the experienced suffering. However, in some cases feelings of anger towards the mother and the Somali culture were reported. No difference was found in the reference group regarding the development of 51 psychological problems. Dutch society, or parts thereof, appears to form a less influential reference group than the Somali community, even when women show a high degree of acculturation. A follow-up survey among gynaecologists and obstetricians would give a more complete picture of the possible psychological problems, as they deal with requests for defibrulations and reinfiltrations claimed on psychological grounds.

Publication information

Author(s): Keizer C
Publisher: Psychology
Additional information

Format: Digital

Cost to obtain the method/tool: Free

Metadata

ONGOING: No

TYPE: Study / Survey

LANGUAGE/TRANSLATION: Dutch

TYPES OF GBV: Female Genital Mutilation

TARGET GROUP: Scientific community

KEYWORDS: female genital mutilation