Saleema



Paying More Attention to Youth Initiatives

The male/female youth interaction and concern with the social issues, to the forefront of which is the issue of violence against women (VAW) in its various forms and manifestations, is a matter that requires more attention and welfare by the State, the society and the civil society organizations (CSOs), as well, for the young people are the backbone of the sought-after process of change, especially if we bear in mind that the Sudan is categorized as a young country for the high percentage of the youth in its population as shown by the last census. Nowadays, the young people are moving in different directions in the voluntary work and are engaging in whatever serves the community as embodied in the many initiatives and campaigns launched by the young people, which enabled them to integrate, melt the differences and join hands to serve the social issues, a matter that helps them establish for a society that achieves equality and justice . And if we look at our field of work, we see the youth initiatives in the fight against female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C) as a form of violence against women and girls, thus we have seen their influential role in campaigning and interacting with Saleema Initiative and how they participated and engaged in the campaigns in the Capital, the countryside and in the universities' campuses, whereas some of them innovated a socio-cultural drama approach and used some appropriate templates including the street/ outdoor theater and discussions within the universities and otherwise, while others participated with the civil society organizations (CSOs) working to end violence against women (VAW). The pioneering youth initiatives are so many, therefore, availing them the opportunity is of paramount importance for two reasons; the first is that these young male/female youth have influence over the targeted segments, which are physically harmed by FGM/C and forecasted to adopt the combat against it and the second reason is that they're more capable of using the electronic media including the social media channels, the technology and networking with each other which makes them key actors in the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women, including the female circumcision, the underage marriage of child-girls and so forth. Thus it is now the right time for these young people to become influential leaders so their communities shall benefit from their energy and potentials in the process of construction and the economic and social development which positively affect the process of social change.

FGM/C Zero Tolerance Programs In Al Gezira State.. Successes and Challenges!

Saleema community dialogues continued in Al Gezira State, in phase II, in the period from February to April 2017 to intensify the awareness raising efforts and introduce Saleema Initiative, which aims to achieve the positive change regarding the phenomenon of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) through Saleema initiative for community communication and creating a mechanism for coordination between the UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs based on child protection and welfare strategies, programs and policies at the state level in all localities.



Al Gezira State

The community dialogue sessions aim to create a common ground between all the entities working in the field of combating violence against underage girls and female circumcision and exchanging experiences to step up work in this vital and important field and ensure safe motherhood by getting men, youth, women, religious scholars and community leaders involved in education and awareness-raising processes.

Whilst, a special festival was held in celebration of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM/C) at Um Al-Gura and Eastern Al Gezira localities as part of the community dialogue programs in Al Gezira State. The program was prepared in cooperation with the partners from the Ministry of Education, Girls Education Administration whereas the female students prepared the program with the participation of all the society sectors and a number of folkloric, artistic and theater bands and the community leaders.

The participation of the community leaders in the region in the programs of the dialogues against the phenomena of female circumcision and the elimination of violence against underage girls helped create a positive movement which in turn led to the positive response of large sectors with the community dialogue programs as many families expressed their willingness to abandon female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). The response was notably larger in high-income and stable education areas with the programs of combating violence against underage girls.

One of the most important outcomes of the community dialogues in Al Gezira State is that all the women and men became fully aware of Saleema Initiative for abandonment of female circumcision, besides highlighting some dangerous personal experiences of some women due to the perilous complications of FGM/C, in addition to transparent, frank and clear dialogues and discussions between women, men, young men and women, religious scholars and community leaders in a systematic manner that put dots on letters. The direct positive results included the announcement by some communities to fully and finally abandon FGM /C. It is noteworthy that most cases of female circumcision were performed by traditional midwives.

The main recommendations focused on improving the living and health conditions of Al Gezira community, paying special attention to the emerging communities created as a result of internal displacement and promoting the protection, awareness and education programs, and developing a comprehensive vision for fighting female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C), introducing a zero tolerance for female genital mutilation FGM/C program in the primary school curriculum, executing intensive FGM/C combating program through the extensive training of midwives and female-trainers and listing the traditional midwives and intensifying awareness and education programs for midwives.

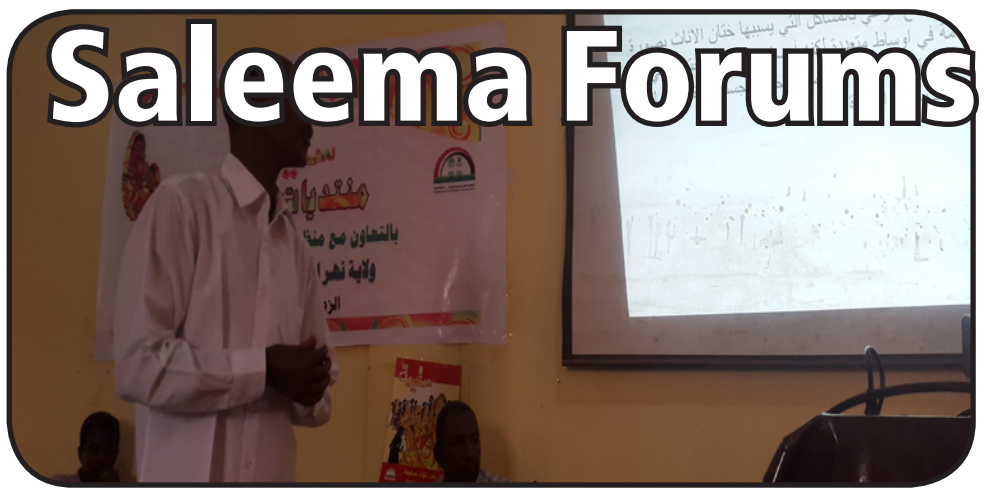








Saleema Forums In River Nile State (Shendi Locality)







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THE FORUM WAS HELD AT SHENDI LOCALITY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S HALL WAS ATTENDED BY 59 MALE/FEMALE YOUNG PARTICIPANTS FROM THE REGION AND A NUMBER OF MEDIA LEADERS, SHENDI TV AND RADIO DELEGATES, WORKING WOMEN ASSOCIATION, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL'S MPS, THE SECRETARY OF SHENDI CHILD WELFARE, MEMBERS OF ABU AASHMA ORGANIZATION, THE MEDIA PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION OF MEDIA AND LOCALITY POLICE AND CHILD WELFARE OFFICE IN SHENDI.

THE FORUM STARTED BY USTAZ/ ALA'AEDDIN ABDEL AZIZ, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ABU AASHMA ORGANIZATION, WHICH WORKS IN THE FIELD OF CHILD WELFARE AND SALEEMA INITIATIVE FOR SOCIAL CONDUCT CHANGE. USTAZ/ ALA'AEDDIN OUTLINED THE FORUM PURPOSE AND GOAL, SAYING IT'S A CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS FORUMS HELD BY ALALAG CENTER TO RAISE AWARENESS ON THE DANGER OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING (FGM/C) IN OTHER STATES OF SUDAN, NOTING THAT THIS FORUM WAS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND FOR ABU AASHMA ORGANIZATION IN COOPERATION WITH ALALAG CENTER.

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HASHIM TENDEL HASSAN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOURNALISTS TRADE UNION IN SHENDI

USTAZ/ HASHIM CRITICIZED THE MEDIA FOR SHORTFALL IN CONVEYING THE MESSAGE OF SALEEM IN SHENDI, DECRYING THE LACK OF A MEDIA PARTNER TO SALEEMA INITIATIVE IN SHENDI, ESPECIALLY THE NEWSPAPERS, SAYING THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE WAS INVITED TO A FORUM OF SALEEMA INITIATIVE. HE RECOMMENDED THE INCLUSION OF THE LOCAL MASS MEDIA, NAMELY THE RADIO, TV AND NEWSPAPERS, SAYING THERE WERE 14 JOURNALISTS IN THE LOCALITY WHO MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE INITIATIVE TO GET ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE TO KNOW SALEEMA INITIATIVE.

AWATIF AL-AZRAG, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SHENDI LOCALITY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

SHE SAID THAT "I HAVE NOTICED THE BIG AUDIENCE, CONSISTING OF YOUNG PEOPLE (MALES AND FEMALES) IN THE FORUM, BUT, IN MY OPINION, I THINK THE WOMEN LEAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MEN AND THE MEN LEAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WOMEN, BUT THE MAIN REASON FOR THE GIRLS CIRCUMCISION IS THE MAN, WHO MUST STAND AND SAY NO TO GIRLS CIRCUMCISION AND LEAVE HIS DAUGHTERS SALEEMAT (SOUND AND HEALTHY) AND WE NEED TO FIGHT TOGETHER FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY IS INTEGRATIVE.

BABIKIR AL-AZRAQ, THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION:

BABIKIR SAID SALEEMA FORUMS WERE A CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS FORUMS, WHICH WERE IMPORTANT FOR TACKLING THE OBSTACLES AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS, SAYING: "MY RECOMMENDATIONS IS TO SIGN THE TAGA OF SALEEMA (DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO ABANDON FGM/C AND COMMITMENT TO SALEEMA INITIATIVE AND SUPPORT IT

OSAMA ABDULLAH, SHENDI LOCALITY POLICE:

OSAMA CONVEYED SHENDI LOCALITY POLICE THANKS TO THE FORUM'S ORGANIZERS, HAILING THE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON THE COMMUNITY ACTION AND THE CLEAR WIDESPREAD OF THE INITIATIVE, ESPECIALLY THE ADVERTISING OF THE MESSAGE FOR SALEEMA IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INITIATIVES IN ALL REGIONS. HE POINTED OUT SAYING "WE IN THE POLICE HAVE A FAMILY AND CHILDREN UNIT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCALITY LEVEL, WHILST THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS HAVE A TENDENCY TO AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO THE FAMILY AND THE CHILD AND WE PAY ATTENTION THROUGH THE COMMUNITY POLICE TO THE INITIATIVES RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY WHICH CAN COORDINATE ACCESS TO REMOTE AREAS IN THE RIVER NILE STATE THROUGH US SO SALEEMA MESSAGE CAN REACH A SOUND THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE SINCE WE HAVE THE MECHANISMS AND THE SUPPORT TO CONVEY THE INITIATIVE MESSAGE AND FOLLOW IT UP THROUGH COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS.

IBRAHIM AL-TAHIR, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SHENDI LOCALITY:

IBRAHIM STARTED HIS SPEECH BY CITING A QUR'ANIC VERSE SAYING: "WE HAVE CERTAINLY CREATED MAN IN THE BEST OF STATURE" AT TIN 3; AND SAID THAT SALEEMA IS CALLING FOR A HEALTHY SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT, AND SALEEMA HAS BECOME WIDESPREAD IN SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND IN ALL SOCIETIES FOR THE POSITIVE CHANGE AND RECOMMENDED THE CONTINUATION OF THE INITIATIVE AND TAKING IT TO THE MOST REMOTE PLACES IN THE VARIOUS STATES OF THE COUNTRY.

ABDEL GADER SULEIMAN, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE:

ABDEL GADER SAID THAT THE INITIATIVE REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF THE SOCIETY, NAMELY, "THE SEGMENT OF THE WOMEN WHO IS OUR MOTHER, SISTER AND DAUGHTER. WE, AT THE NATIONAL SERVICE, HAVE 800 CONSCRIPTS, WHO ARE ALL UNDER THE SERVICE OF THE HEALTH CENTERS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE PROJECT OF THE SAFE MOTHERHOOD , AND WE JOIN OUR VOICES WITH THOSE OF THE POLICE AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO BE THE BEST ASSET AND SUPPORT TO THE INITIATIVE.

YAGOUB AL-SHEIKH, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF THE SUDANESE YOUTH, SHENDI LOCALITY

YAGOUB DESCRIBED ABU AASHMA ORGANIZATION AS THE BRIDGE LINKING THE PEOPLE'S CONCERNS OF HEALTH AND CULTURE, SAYING THAT THE SERIES OF SALEEMA FORUMS IS NOT NEW, CITING THE TV CAMPAIGN LED BY SHEIKH AL-KAROURI, ONE OF THE GREAT SALEEMA AMBASSADORS FOR SALEEMA IS NOT A SIMPLE MATTER THAT IS EASY TO DO BUT IT IS RATHER AN INITIATIVE ADDRESSING THE ENTIRE SOCIETY, WHEREIN HABITS, TRADITIONS AND TABOOS ARE DEEP-ROOTED SO THE TALK ABOUT THE FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING (FGM/C) IS A TABOO, BUT RECENTLY THERE WAS A CHANGE THROUGH THE OPENING OF THE ELECTRONIC SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE MULTIMEDIA SO THE INITIATIVE PROVED SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE IT ADDRESSES THE COMMUNITY FROM WITHIN AND THROUGH THE YOUTH. HE PLEDGED AS A SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE YOUTH UNION TO MAKE SALEEMA ONE OF THE UNION PRIORITIES FROM UM ALI MOUNTAIN TO AL-SEBLOUGA WATERFALLS AND TO BE AMONG THE AGENDA OF THE YOUTH PROGRAMS.

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AL-NAGAR SAID: "WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE THE FORUM IN SHENDI LOCALITY, CONSIDERING THE LARGE AUDIENCE AN EVIDENCE THAT SALEEMA MESSAGE HAD BEEN CONVEYED THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA AND THE FRONT AND BACK DEPARTMENTS AND THROUGH THE CULTURAL, POLICE AND COMMUNITY CADRES", NOTING THAT SHENDI LOCALITY HAS A UNIFIED SOCIAL FABRIC AND THIS FORUM WILL EXTEND TO OTHER LOCALITIES THROUGH THE YOUTH AND THAT THEY IN ABU AASHMA ORGANIZATION WILL FOLLOW UP ALL THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES AND WORK ON COMMUNICATING THE POSITIVE MESSAGE OF SALEEMA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY AND THE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF CHILDHOOD SO SALEEMA WILL BE A HABIT OF THE SOCIETY .

SALEEMA FORUMS IN RIVER NILE STATE (SHENDI LOCALITY)
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THE FORUM INCLUDED A NUMBER OF INTERVENTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS REFLECTING DIFFERENT VIEWS AROUND SALEEMA INITIATIVE, HIGHLIGHTED BY MOHAMMED AHMED OSMAN, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AWLAD AL-BALAD ORGANIZATIONS, WHO POINTED OUT THAT THE TALK ABOUT SALEEMA CAME OUT OF THE DOOR OF INDIVIDUALS TO THE COMMUNITY IN AN OPEN TALK THROUGH DIALOGUES, WHEREAS WE HAVE BECOME FACILITATORS OF DIALOGUES IN OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES, SAYING THAT THE QUESTIONS IN THESE DIALOGUES WERE USUALLY ABOUT PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE FAMILY OR THE SOCIETY AND ABOUT THE DAMAGES, WHICH INCLUDES THE LOSS OF SOME OF OUR SISTERS AND AUNTS BECAUSE OF FEMALE CIRCUMCISION. HE PLEDGED "I AM FOR SALEEMA INITIATIVE FOR FGM/C MUST BE ABANDONED ALTOGETHER TO PROTECT THE SAFE MATERNITY AND HAPPY MARRIAGES". HE SAID SOME SOCIETY SEGMENTS ACCEPT DIALOGUE, BUT THERE ARE CHALLENGES IN THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES, INCLUDING THE VISION OF THE INTELLECTUALS, THE SCHOLARS AND THE RELIGIOUS MEN, BUT WITH THE CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE THEY BECAME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE EFFORTS IN SALEEMA INITIATIVE WHICH THEY ADOPTED AND BECAME AN ENTRANCE TO US WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

MORTADA KHALID AMARA, HOSH BANAGA TOWN SAID, "WE ATTENDED AN INTENSIVE COURSE ON SALEEMA PACKAGE AND TOOLKIT SO WE WORKED THROUGH THE COMMUNITY AND CONDUCTED COMMUNITY DIALOGUES, BUT WE FACED SOME CHALLENGES AS WE INITIALLY FACED A STIGMA "THE PEOPLE PREVENTING TAHOR" I.E. GIRLS PURGE (AS CIRCUMCISION IS TRADITIONALLY AND ERRONEOUSLY CONSIDERED) BUT WE REACHED PERIPHERAL AREAS AND WE WORKED THEREIN FOR 11 MONTHS ADMINISTERING DIALOGUES IN KHALAWA (RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS), MOSQUES, SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES AND WE COVERED A BIG PART OF THE AREAS UNTIL WE BECAME PARTNERS IN THEIR CONCERNS AND INTERESTS AND WE HEARD THEIR PERSONAL STORIES.

HASHIM TENDEL HASSAN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOURNALISTS TRADE UNION IN SHENDI

USTAZ/ HASHIM CRITICIZED THE MEDIA FOR SHORTFALL IN CONVEYING THE MESSAGE OF SALEEM IN SHENDI, DECRYING THE LACK OF A MEDIA PARTNER TO SALEEMA INITIATIVE IN SHENDI, ESPECIALLY THE NEWSPAPERS, SAYING THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE WAS INVITED TO A FORUM OF SALEEMA INITIATIVE. HE RECOMMENDED THE INCLUSION OF THE LOCAL MASS MEDIA, NAMELY THE RADIO, TV AND NEWSPAPERS, SAYING THERE WERE 14 JOURNALISTS IN THE LOCALITY WHO MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE INITIATIVE TO GET ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE STATE TO KNOW SALEEMA INITIATIVE.

AWATIF AL-AZRAG, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF SHENDI LOCALITY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

SHE SAID THAT "I HAVE NOTICED THE BIG AUDIENCE, CONSISTING OF YOUNG PEOPLE (MALES AND FEMALES) IN THE FORUM, BUT, IN MY OPINION, I THINK THE WOMEN LEAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE MEN AND THE MEN LEAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO THE WOMEN, BUT THE MAIN REASON FOR THE GIRLS CIRCUMCISION IS THE MAN, WHO MUST STAND AND SAY NO TO GIRLS CIRCUMCISION AND LEAVE HIS DAUGHTERS SALEEMAT (SOUND AND HEALTHY) AND WE NEED TO FIGHT TOGETHER FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY IS INTEGRATIVE.

BABIKIR AL-AZRAQ, THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURE AND INFORMATION:

BABIKIR SAID SALEEMA FORUMS WERE A CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS FORUMS, WHICH WERE IMPORTANT FOR TACKLING THE OBSTACLES AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS, SAYING: "MY RECOMMENDATIONS IS TO SIGN THE TAGA OF SALEEMA (DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO ABANDON FGM/C AND COMMITMENT TO SALEEMA INITIATIVE AND SUPPORT IT

OSAMA ABDULLAH, SHENDI LOCALITY POLICE:

OSAMA CONVEYED SHENDI LOCALITY POLICE THANKS TO THE FORUM'S ORGANIZERS, HAILING THE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON THE COMMUNITY ACTION AND THE CLEAR WIDESPREAD OF THE INITIATIVE, ESPECIALLY THE ADVERTISING OF THE MESSAGE FOR SALEEMA IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INITIATIVES IN ALL REGIONS. HE POINTED OUT SAYING "WE IN THE POLICE HAVE A FAMILY AND CHILDREN UNIT AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCALITY LEVEL, WHILST THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS HAVE A TENDENCY TO AMEND THE LAWS RELATING TO THE FAMILY AND THE CHILD AND WE PAY ATTENTION THROUGH THE COMMUNITY POLICE TO THE INITIATIVES RELATING TO THE COMMUNITY WHICH CAN COORDINATE ACCESS TO REMOTE AREAS IN THE RIVER NILE STATE THROUGH US SO SALEEMA MESSAGE CAN REACH A SOUND THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE SINCE WE HAVE THE MECHANISMS AND THE SUPPORT TO CONVEY THE INITIATIVE MESSAGE AND FOLLOW IT UP THROUGH COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS.

IBRAHIM AL-TAHIR, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SHENDI LOCALITY:

IBRAHIM STARTED HIS SPEECH BY CITING A QUR'ANIC VERSE SAYING: "WE HAVE CERTAINLY CREATED MAN IN THE BEST OF STATURE" AT TIN 3; AND SAID THAT SALEEMA IS CALLING FOR A HEALTHY SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT, AND SALEEMA HAS BECOME WIDESPREAD IN SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND IN ALL SOCIETIES FOR THE POSITIVE CHANGE AND RECOMMENDED THE CONTINUATION OF THE INITIATIVE AND TAKING IT TO THE MOST REMOTE PLACES IN THE VARIOUS STATES OF THE COUNTRY.

ABDEL GADER SULEIMAN, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE:

ABDEL GADER SAID THAT THE INITIATIVE REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF THE SOCIETY, NAMELY, "THE SEGMENT OF THE WOMEN WHO IS OUR MOTHER, SISTER AND DAUGHTER. WE, AT THE NATIONAL SERVICE, HAVE 800 CONSCRIPTS, WHO ARE ALL UNDER THE SERVICE OF THE HEALTH CENTERS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE PROJECT OF THE SAFE MOTHERHOOD , AND WE JOIN OUR VOICES WITH THOSE OF THE POLICE AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO BE THE BEST ASSET AND SUPPORT TO THE INITIATIVE.

YAGOUB AL-SHEIKH, THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF THE SUDANESE YOUTH, SHENDI LOCALITY

YAGOUB DESCRIBED ABU AASHMA ORGANIZATION AS THE BRIDGE LINKING THE PEOPLE'S CONCERNS OF HEALTH AND CULTURE, SAYING THAT THE SERIES OF SALEEMA FORUMS IS NOT NEW, CITING THE TV CAMPAIGN LED BY SHEIKH AL-KAROURI, ONE OF THE GREAT SALEEMA AMBASSADORS FOR SALEEMA IS NOT A SIMPLE MATTER THAT IS EASY TO DO BUT IT IS RATHER AN INITIATIVE ADDRESSING THE ENTIRE SOCIETY, WHEREIN HABITS, TRADITIONS AND TABOOS ARE DEEP-ROOTED SO THE TALK ABOUT THE FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING (FGM/C) IS A TABOO, BUT RECENTLY THERE WAS A CHANGE THROUGH THE OPENING OF THE ELECTRONIC SOCIAL MEDIA AND THE MULTIMEDIA SO THE INITIATIVE PROVED SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE IT ADDRESSES THE COMMUNITY FROM WITHIN AND THROUGH THE YOUTH. HE PLEDGED AS A SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE YOUTH UNION TO MAKE SALEEMA ONE OF THE UNION PRIORITIES FROM UM ALI MOUNTAIN TO AL-SEBLOUGA WATERFALLS AND TO BE AMONG THE AGENDA OF THE YOUTH PROGRAMS.

STAZ/ AL-NAGAR ABU AASHMA, THE SECRETARY OF SHENDI LOCALITY CHILD WELFARE COUNCIL:

AL-NAGAR SAID: "WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE THE FORUM IN SHENDI LOCALITY, CONSIDERING THE LARGE AUDIENCE AN EVIDENCE THAT SALEEMA MESSAGE HAD BEEN CONVEYED THROUGH THE MASS MEDIA AND THE FRONT AND BACK DEPARTMENTS AND THROUGH THE CULTURAL, POLICE AND COMMUNITY CADRES", NOTING THAT SHENDI LOCALITY HAS A UNIFIED SOCIAL FABRIC AND THIS FORUM WILL EXTEND TO OTHER LOCALITIES THROUGH THE YOUTH AND THAT THEY IN ABU AASHMA ORGANIZATION WILL FOLLOW UP ALL THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUES AND WORK ON COMMUNICATING THE POSITIVE MESSAGE OF SALEEMA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY AND THE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF CHILDHOOD SO SALEEMA WILL BE A HABIT OF THE SOCIETY .



A set of anti female circumcision community dialogue sessions took place in El Gedarif State's localities of El Gedarif, Al Botana and Gala'a Al-Nahal, in the period from April through June 2017 under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Guidance (Child Welfare Council).

El Gedarif State….

Fighting Female Circumcision Through Community =Dialogues

El Gedarif

⁎ Field Work Opportunities

The Child Welfare Council started, in collaboration with the UNICEF, practical steps to combat violence against girls (female circumcision) which is a nightmare for the child-girls in El Gedarif State, by administering community dialogues to raise awareness and show the dangers of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) with the participation of the commissioners of the localities and in consultation with the chairpersons of the people's committees and community leaders.

20 volunteers were selected in each locality based on specific criteria to facilitate the community dialogues after receiving a 15-day advanced training on how to administer and facilitate dialogues, the expected goal and the results to be achieved. Then they were given hands-on field work opportunities to practically apply the skills they learned in the training for administering and facilitating community dialogues.

⁎ Al Botana Privacy

In Al Botana Locality, which is considered almost (a closed) area, in which all the forms of female circumcisions are practiced, specially the notorious Pharaonic circumcision i.e. the most heinous form of FGM/C, thus it is particularly difficult to discuss the issues of violence against child-girls due to the nature and privacy of the community, therefore the Child Welfare Council exerted big efforts to overcome the difficulties and facilitate the work of the team of volunteers. Fortunately those efforts led to access to those areas and conducting the dialogues as planned.

Dr. Ansam Ahmed Aloub, the Secretary of the Child Welfare Council addressed the opening session of launching work at Al Botana Locality. She pledged consolidated official and popular efforts to address the rampant phenomenon in Al Botana communities stemming from the privacy of these communities. She directed the participants to administer the dialogues in a good manner and create societal mobility so everyone shall know the importance of combating FGM/C and the negative effects resulting from the female circumcision and the damage it inflicted on the young girls.

⁎A Deterrent Act:-

720 community dialogue sessions were held in Al Botana Locality by 7200 volunteers with the participation of 1787 male and 5202 women participants. The noteworthy observations that emerged during the dialogue sessions at the Locality was that a significant percentage of the citizens were holding to the "Sunna circumcision" 'i.e. a controversial practice thought by some as Islamic requirement', a matter that necessitates conducting more dialogues to shed the light on the dangers of the female circumcision within health and religious awareness campaigns.

The most prominent challenges facing the educational work in Al Botana Locality is the high illiteracy rate and the misconceptions of the female circumcision and its relationship to marriage and that some midwives abuse the profession for material gains and the local beliefs that disgrace the non-circumcised girl as (ghalfa i.e. uncircumcised = impure). The recommendations urged for intensifying awareness campaigns, enacting a deterrent FGM/C incriminating law, and directing the imams and preachers to intensify awareness campaigns and the participation of elders, mayors and religious leaders in the education and awareness processes in the Locality.

⁎ Social Beliefs:-

The community dialogues were launched at Gala'a Al Nahal Locality to achieve an overall objective, namely, an all-inclusive mass movement to collectively abandon the practice of female circumcision in the communities targeted by outreach efforts and an specific objective to change the misconceptions and false beliefs about the practice of female circumcision for all segments of the societies. The most important themes of the dialogue sessions focused on the health, psychological and legal effects and the social beliefs of the practice of female circumcision and the Fiqh (Religious Jurisprudence) opinion and the religious position regarding FGM/C.

Some volunteers paid domestic and households' visits and organized dialogue sessions for women and girls and diverse and miscellaneous dialogue sessions for men and young men and women through the available platforms (households/mosques/ Dor Al-Mo'minat (believer-women houses)/clubs. Etc). These sessions found wide and substantial response and lured in large audiences from the different sectors of the society who were much eager to attend and participate actively and contribute decisively in the fight against the female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).

⁎⁎ Challenges and Opportunities:-

One of the opportunities in Al Botana Locality is the availability of Dor Al-Mo'minat, and a number of mosques, clubs and youth centers in the targeted communities that can be used to implement further awareness-raising and educational activities, the big response and eagerness of the community committees and community leaders to work with the volunteers in the implementation of the awareness-raising and education programs of combating female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C). The most prominent challenges facing work in the Locality is the widespread illiteracy and the lack of a deterrent law to stop traditional midwives from practicing FGM/C operations, in addition to some harmful customs and traditions such as the focus by some men on the sexual pleasure only with no regard to any other circumstance and the incision (re-seaming) after giving birth.

One of the most important recommendations that the community dialogue sessions came out with are: Giving continuous training to societal dialogue facilitators in the field of social protection and the continuous outreach efforts to the targeted communities through lectures, seminars and enacting a law that criminalizes and punishes on the practice of FGM/C and getting mayors, community leaders and civil departments onboard to enrich the awareness-raising efforts for advocacy, polarization and expanding participation.







⁎ Positive Results

Ustaza/ Su'aad added: There are efforts and community-based programs in partnership with the Ministry of Health in Khartoum State with the participation of several hospitals in the State to educate mothers about the dangers of female circumcision. Those efforts produced positive results as many families have abandoned girls' circumcision. Su'aad went on saying: We have partnerships with the civil society, the government agencies and international organizations such as the UNICEF (our main partner) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Plan Sudan. All actors and all efforts are consolidating to bring about social change for the welfare of the children of Sudan.

⁎ Community Dialogues

Ustaza/ Su'aad Al-Tahir cited partnerships with the youth and youngsters and ongoing training programs based on Saleema Guide and Toolkit to fully educate the youngsters about the positive messages to lure in new advocates of FGM/C abandonment who participate in the dissemination of Saleema campaign and strengthening their role in bringing about the positive change. Besides the efforts of the legislative councils and parliamentarians, who conducted dialogues around the issue from several perspectives (health, legal and religious). The dialogues included our brothers in the Islamic Fiqh Academy in addition to dialogues with the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security. Whereas all the efforts have found the political support from the State leadership, the Republic and the ministers and Khartoum State Governor, in addition to all the relevant ministries and entities and from the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW).

⁎ The Children's Rights

Saleema Initiative enjoys the support of a number of religious leaders and scholars headed by Al-Karori and Hashem Al-Hakeem, according to Su'aad, noting that they are also ambassadors for Saleema Initiative, besides there are five organizations working in the field of childhood in the Sudan which signed all the international conventions pertaining to childhood without reservation.

The important efforts and steps included the issuance of the Child Act 2010, tipped among top 10 laws worldwide because it secures all the children's rights, besides many judges were trained on the enforcement of Child Act 2010 in the specialized prosecution offices on how to deal with the children's issues and to educate and monitor all foster care houses and shelters of homeless children and unknown parentage children to improve their status and the perfect example that supports this is Soba Social City, which was designed by Khartoum State's Ministry of Social Development with international standards and specifications to accommodate, rehabilitate and reintegrate the homeless in the State, Su'aad said.

Ustaza/ Su'aad Al-Tahir said many universities and organizations joined efforts with us to accomplish the achievements made in the field of childhood such as Al-Ahfad University for Girls and the University of Al Gezira and the University of El Gedarif. They exerted big efforts in raising awareness of the importance of abandoning FGM/C and community efforts in elucidating and applying the concepts in a number of States like North Kordofan, and these efforts contributed to bringing about the social change process.



⁎ Criminalizing FGM/C

Ustaza/ Su'aad Al-Tahir said the next steps would be a comprehensive plan for all the childhood issues in the pivots of welfare, protection and development 2030, besides developing the Strategy of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM/C) in the next 10 years and advocacy for child-friendly budgets in the spheres of health, education, welfare and protection and strengthening the organizations working in the field of childhood at the level of the federal, states and localities and follow up the enforcement of the law that criminalizes FGM/C, which is now on its way to the National Legislative Assembly as part of amendments contained in the Penal Code.

End of Interview





Protection of Girls from FGM/C Crime,

"Saleema is an excellent and smart initiative that addressed the society and the good conscience and captured significant attention. Saleema is the sound and healthy human being,,



"WE HAVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CIVIL SOCIETY, THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE UNICEF (OUR MAIN PARTNER) AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) AND THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA) AND PLAN SUDAN....
"WE HAVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE YOUTH AND YOUNGSTERS AND ONGOING TRAINING PROGRAMS BASED ON SALEEMA GUIDE AND TOOLKIT TO FULLY EDUCATE THE YOUNGSTERS ABOUT THE POSITIVE MESSAGES TO LURE IN NEW ADVOCATES OF FGM/C ABANDONMENT....
"SALEEMA INITIATIVE ENJOYS THE SUPPORT OF A NUMBER OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND SCHOLARS WHO ARE ALSO AMBASSADORS FOR THE INITIATIVE.....
"THE IMPORTANT EFFORTS AND STEPS INCLUDED THE ISSUANCE OF THE CHILD ACT 2010, TIPPED AMONG TOP 10 LAWS WORLDWIDE BECAUSE IT SECURES ALL THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS, BESIDES MANY JUDGES WERE TRAINED ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD ACT 2010....
"MANY UNIVERSITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS JOINED EFFORTS WITH US TO ACCOMPLISH ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF CHILDHOOD SUCH AS AL-AHFAD UNIVERSITY FOR GIRLS AND THE UNIVERSITY OF AL GEZIRA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF EL GEDARIF....
"THE NEXT STEPS WOULD BE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR ALL THE CHILDHOOD ISSUES IN THE PIVOTS OF WELFARE, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT 2030, BESIDES DEVELOPING THE STRATEGY OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/ CUTTING (FGM/C) IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS....
"SALEEMA ENJOYS THE POLITICAL SUPPORT FROM THE STATE LEADERSHIP, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE MINISTERS AND KHARTOUM STATE GOVERNOR...

INTERVIEW WITH NCCW SECRETARY GENERAL SU'AAD ABDEL AAL

Interviewed By: Tahani Sa'adan

x Saleema Initiative for keeping girls "Saleemat" i.e. unharmed, not subjected to FGM/C, left sound and healthy in body and mind all over the Sudan, and children's issues with special emphasis on the issue of combating FGM/C and working for a better future for the children in the Sudan and consolidating efforts to eliminate the female circumcision, were among the topics of the interview with Ustaza/ Su'aad Abel Aaal Al-Tahir, the Secretary General of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) as detailed below.....



Saleema Is a Smart Initiative That Received Attention:-

Ustaza/ Su'aad Abel Aaal said: "Saleema is an excellent and smart initiative that addresses the society and the good conscience, and Saleema is the sound and healthy human being. Allah The Almighty says "We have certainly created man in the best of stature"(Al-Tin 4) So Saleema came to address the positive aspects in the society thus the Initiative talks of a saleema i.e. sound and healthy female that's why the Initiative has received great response from the various sectors of society. The advocacy campaign was managed with high efficiency through the training of a large number of male/female trainers on Saleema Activity guide and Toolkits and training 450 male/female trainees in the different states of the Sudan whereas the training targeted the community leaders to contribute to the community dialogues to raise awareness of the issue of combating the female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).

Ana Lan Initiative (I Will Not Initiative),,

New Ways to Combat FGM/C

The Sudanese political and social scene lately witnessed many youth initiatives seeking to address several problems and issues facing the S – danese society, such as "Ana Lan (I Will Not) Initiative», which works to establish the concepts and values in new and innovative ways like the dissemination of the values through the arts in general, like the theater which has a significant impact on the society as the fresh memory of the famous saying: «Give me bread and theater, I will give you an educated people» is still echoing.



The Youth Generation

Ana Lan Initiative saw the light in February 2014 and it has been, ever since, actively fighting the female circumcision "khitan" so the present generation shall be the last to have been subjected to the crime of the female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) based on the individualistic responsibility principle in fighting the FGM/C, the Initiative Coordinator Maya Noor said, noting that the Initiative targets the young people, in particular and all the age groups in Sudan, in general.

The Initiative uses all the audiovisual arts to highlight the programs of fighting the FGM/C, according to Maya, who added that the Initiative has contacts with many different sectors of the society and it works in Khartoum, the other states and within the Sudanese universities.

The Protection of Child Girls

Maya Noor said that the goals and values of the Initiative seek to protect the child-girls since any Sudanese girl has the right to keep her body in full (i.e. uncut) and enjoy a safe and happy emotional, sexual and reproductive life without any hassles or health or psychological risks. «The female circumcision (FGM/C) is violence against the women, which is done against the girls simply because they are females so its continuity is a perpetuating violence in the society which is leading to a decline in the concepts of compassion, love, beauty and the human rights to enjoy a healthy life, thus every Sudanese man has the responsibility to fight the female circumcision by all available means,» she added.

The Individual Responsibility

Initiative member, Mohammed Al-Khateeb said: «The Initiative is an open platform for all the sectors of the society. It stands with all the efforts and the initiatives aimed at raising awareness about the dangers of the female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and is networking with many entities and institutions and uses all the mass and social media to communicate the ideas, visions, concepts and information», adding that the Initiative organized a number of workshops, lectures, festivals and monthly forums against the female circumcision and to collect pledges from the Sudanese people to stop FGM/C and spread the principle of the individual responsibility.

He noted that The Initiative includes a number of Sudanese young men and women from different academic and social backgrounds among whom there is the employee, the graduate and the student united by one goal which is «Leaving Girls Saleemat (sound and healthy)».

An Active Presence

The Initiative has an active presence in the social media networks and its Facebook Page has 12,131 participants and followers from different age groups, besides it collected 1700 pledges not to practice FGM/C. It has been using the theater to communicate the ideas and concepts in an innovative and attractive ways since its inception in December 2014. The Initiative used the theatrical production to produce a technical presentation to participate with in TEDEX SOPA, as Ana La (I Will Not) succeeded in writing, directing and performing the artistic presentation in (TEDEX SOPA 2014). The presentation included a dialogue, singing, music and dance expression.

The initiative took part in a number of events, celebrations and festivals, including the «Women and Childbirth» Conference in 2015 on the International Women's Day and Mother's Day at Al-Junaid Cultural Center. The Initiative organized a number of workshops covering many professional sectors (doctors, journalists...) It has activities and events in (13) Sudanese universities in Khartoum and the states, besides it has entered into partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) such as Saiyha Network, Jisr Center for Development, Alalag Center for Press Services, the Association of Medical Students in Al-Obeid, the Women Cooperative Union and the Cultural Associations in Universities.

Men and Women

The Initiative calls upon all the Sudanese people (men and women) of all sectors and all walks of life to reject the practice of FGM/C, show courage and national and humane responsibility, and to frankly express their stance against FGM/C crime.

The initiative seeks to strengthen the role of networking with the organizations working in the field of fighting FGM/C and to work with the local organizations and get them involved in the societal dialogue and work more on the theater and activate its role and provide opportunities to train and qualify cadres, especially in the states of the Sudan.

(a The National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW

Science and knowledge-Based Advocacy in Fighting FGM/C ...

Within the context of the implementation of the National Strategy for the Aba – donment of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C) and Sudan Free of Female Genital Cutting (SFFGC) Program and in partnership between Sudan Gover – ment and the relevant international organizations like the UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA, the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) has launched FGM/C abolition advocacy slogans, objectives and programs, besides a national working group for social norms was established in partnership between the NCCW and the Federal Ministry of Health (MOH) with the aim to expand the knowledge base for launching (Sudan Free of Female Genital Cutting (SFFGC)) Program.

The International Knowledge Sharing Conference on Women and Girls Health in Sudan, October 2015, availed a great opportunity for scientists, researchers and decision-makers to discuss the issue of fighting FGM/C in details and in depth. The outcomes of these discussions and dialogues included six practical research papers to be published soon. The conference was the first step towards initiating interventions in the year 2017 and deliberating on the futuristic visions of the research data users and producers.

The International Conference developed a set of objectives and recommendations, most notably the possibility of using the results of the studies on anti FGM/C interventions and identifying priority research gaps in FGM/C for Sudan in the areas not covered by the abovementioned six researches.

The six researches came under the following headlines:-

The first research: «In-depth Analysis Using Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and Family Health Surveys on FGM/C and Underage Marriages in Sudan «.

The second research: «Baseline Study on Teaching Harmful Traditional Practices and FGM/C in Basic Training Curricula of Health Colleges and Faculties of Medicine»

The third research: «A Basic Course on Knowledge, Trends and Practices of Midwives on FGM/C Before Engaging in the New Curriculum of Midwives Schools in Kassala and Khartoum States»

The fourth research: "A Desk Analysis of Available Information Materials on Knowledge, Culture and Communication Regarding FGM/C in Sudan"

The fifth research: «Analysis and Documentation of Collective Declarations to Abandon FGM/C in Sudan».

The sixth research: «Procedures of Decision-Making on FGM/C within Families of Different Backgrounds and Experiences».

The expected outputs of the six scientific researches will include an abstract summing up three topics (medical, community interventions and communication), to be published in a booklet and distribute 500 copies of this booklet containing the abstract, press releases, news reports for TV, daily newspapers and radio stations to cover the proceedings and results of the gathering.