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There Is Progress, Though Sluggish

The leading article of The Economist Newspaper in its last month edition, sparked the derision of many entities and activists in the field of fighting the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C), which prompted them to raise a petition protesting the contents of the article which they considered an explicit call for retreat from a extremely harsh process which is the cutting of the female infibulations FGM/C, for they saw the mere indication and call for equilibrium for there is a harmful female circumcision and another harmless process is quite inconsistent with the international guidelines by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the pledge by the specialist-doctors and professional health practitioners not to practice the heinous operation. The writer based his article on an assumption ruling out significant progress in this regard, which is inimical, untrue and connotes many paradoxes, falsehoods and inaccuracies because so many communities have renounced the habit of the female circumcision and chose the right path to leave their daughters Saleema (uncut and unharmed), which ascertains the effective interaction brought about by the societal movement especially the movement and lobbying by the civil society and international organizations and the media, which has been playing a major role in reflecting the damage resulting from FGM/C by focusing on the real stories of the child-girls victims of the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C), which shaped a confronting anti FGM/C public opinion and some mass media has even made it an issue of public opinion. No doubt that the concerns expressed by those who signed the petition are legitimate concerns besides the freedom of expression and expressing different points of view is also legitimate, but jumping to conclusions and hurling verdicts without referring back to the facts or looking at them from one angle also undermine the exerted efforts especially in the highly sensitive issue of FGM/C on which a lot of money was spent, so any talk or hint of a simplified female circumcision done by doctors would be cementing in principle the concept of the circumcision, which we have been fighting for more than half a century however no one can ever guarantee a possibly benign form of FGM/C for all the experiences of the victims are experiences concerning women who over the years asserted the harm and damage inflicted on them by the female circumcision physically and psychologically.

Finally, we can point out that the silence has been broken toward the issue of the female circumcision within the local communities which had remained silent for quite a long period for they used to consider the mere talk about the female circumcision is shameful so the involvement of the young people of both sexes in the campaigns against the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C) is a matter that consolidate faith and optimism that some change has occurred and is still materializing because these young men and women are the fathers and mothers of the future who are the targeted category concerned with the matter and these young people will continue to ask questions about the significance of continuing to practice the female circumcision since it causes damage and since the issue as a whole has a socio-cultural dimension for the cultures evolve and change with the societal motion and dialogue so we do not want a stumbling stone be put in front of this progress, though somewhat sluggish

Saleema

Training of Trainers Workshops









South Darfur State:

The training of trainers' workshop in South Darfur State started on Wednesday, 18 May 2016 within the framework of the training courses conducted by the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) in collaboration with the UNICEF Sudan to ensure that the idea of Saleema Initiative reaches the targeted communities and segments in a clear, simple and easy to comprehend manner.

The Blue Nile State:

The National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) started in cooperation with the UNICEF Sudan and Ahfad University a course for training of trainers (TOT) on the directory of Saleema tools in the Blue Nile State, in the period from 16 to 20 May 2016 as part of the quest to raise awareness within all the communities on the positive concept of Saleema Initiative.

El Gedaref State:

El Gedaref City saw the conclusion of the activities of the training of trainers course on the use of Saleema's package of and tools for communication and outreach under the motto (Every girl was born Saleema, let every girl grow Saleema) on Wednesday 12 May 2016. The course, which lasted for four days saw the participation of a number of people from the various localities of the State and was attended by a number of partners, the Council of Child Welfare in the State and Ahfad University

It is noteworthy that the event was attended by HE. the Minister of Welfare and Social Security, El Gedaref Locality Commissioner and the Dean of the Faculty of Community Development and a praiseworthy attendance from the University of Gedaref and the State Police represented by HE. Zine El Abidine.



TOT Workshops in Several Other States

Similar workshops of training of trainers (TOT) were held in a number of other states in collaboration with the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), the UNICEF Sudan and Ahfad University the states of Central Darfur, Zalingei in the period 21-24 April 2016, Eastern Darfur, Ed Di'aein in the period from 24- 26 May 2016, Kassala 31 May to 03 June 2016, North Darfur, El Fasher 23 to 26 May 2016, North Kordofan, Al-Obeid White 29 to 31 May 2016, Sennar, Singa 04 to 07 April 2016, West Darfur, El Genaina 17 to 20 April 2016 and the River Nile State 02 to 05 April 2016.
The training aimed to provide the practical guideline to the users of the package Saleema Initiative tools for communication on how to organize and facilitate training courses with the different target groups by training. The package is dedicated for the persons who work with local communities for the protection of girls from all kinds of circumcision, who desire to use some methods, materials and activities of communication which have been developed by Saleema Initiative. The purpose of the package of materials is to support the existing networking programs rather than replacing them altogether.

Pharaonic Circumcision Re-Emerges Anew

El Gezira: Popular correspondent: Najat Mahmoud

The Pharaonic Circumcision (infibulations cutting, FGM/C) grew to record rate unprecedented in the previous years in the villages of El Gezira State, whereas a midwife cited recently filed numerous complaints reports and cases of hemorrhaging suffered by a number of circumcised child-girls in the villages amidst the spreading of a number of diseases like HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, infections and mental disorders. Usually the coordination, for the heinous operation, takes place between the grandmother and the midwife, who the family does not disclose her name and sometimes she is brought from another area to carry out the circumcision operation, so we must confess that the issue of circumcision needs awareness and education.

Al-Kamar: Popular correspondent: Awad Mustafa

The schools summer vacation, which the pupils in Sudan are supposed to enjoy, seems to have turned tragic for a lot of young girls as it stimulated the women's appetite for celebratory occasions through mass female circumcision operations on about forty child-girls in Al-Kamar countryside, a matter that bothered a number of young people who disapprove the harmful tradition and the twisting around to continue to practice the female circumcision and since the families know about the ongoing efforts to stop the female circumcision and that many midwives have sworn not to perform the operation, so they are twisting around by bringing midwives from outside the village i.e. from the neighboring villages, whereas a single day witnessed, according to the source, the circumcision of around 40 child-girls generating SDG20,000, which makes the FGM/C a lucrative source of income for the midwives

Increasing FGM/C Rates In Summer Holidays In El Gezira Villages

Female circumcision.... and what : can make you know what female circumcision is

Polls

El Gezira: Popular correspondent: Asmahan Adam



In spite of the big awareness campaigns in the different communities on the instantaneous and futuristic dangers of the female circumcision, still a big controversy is fermenting amongst the mothers between supporters and naysayers who deplore the heinous habit and push to eliminate it from the Sudanese customs and traditions. Unfortunately, whenever we touched on the subject of the female circumcision, the role of men materializes to indirectly support it or turn a blind eye from the practice on the claim that it is a feminine matter while they make the decisions and impose their authority on the family, wife, daughters and sons, as such means that many Sudanese men prefer the wife of the future to be circumcised for such represents chastity as they understand it despite the fact that chastity and honor are not linked to circumcision, there is the case of an uncircumcised girl named (H.O) who was secretly circumcised at the age of marriage for her suitor barefacedly insisted she should be circumcised because he preferred her cut which he brazenly and shamelessly thus the mother and daughter went to a midwife and got the girl circumcised secretly so the neighbors would not know and there are many .similar incidences

When raising awareness among the mothers in El Gezira State on the dangers of female circumcision, we find a great response, but unfortunately when the school holidays come the contrary takes place as mass girls circumcision operations go rampant and discreetly in many cases on the pretext that "Sunnah circumcision" has no damages and the girl can put on her underwear and satisfy all her needs naturally as of the next day, this argument is so hazy as they are forgetting and turning a blind eye from the subsequent psychological and physical aftermaths. In spite of the mothers awareness of those risks, but their mentality is constrained by the customs and traditions based on misconceptions. In my opinion, I think we need for concerted great and painstaking efforts of all stakeholders to protect the child-girls and otherwise so the awareness targets both parents and not just the mothers, since the Adam of Sudan is the core of the matter to be able to blow apart the accumulated misconception of female circumcision, to consolidate the principle that it is out of the right of any girl to live Saleema (sound and intact) as . she was born Saleema

Call to Adopt Saleema Initiative at Faculty of Medicine in Kassala

An Informative Forum of Saleema Initiative was held in the Faculty of Medicine in the Complex of the Faculties (The Center) in Kassala State, Monday 05 May 2016, within the framework of the continuous efforts by Saleema Website team in collaboration with the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) to hold its periodic forums in the different states of the country.

The forum, which was attended by a number of (50) young men / women from the Faculty of Medicine and the other faculties, was addressed by Ustaza/ Mahasin Al-Neel Masa'ad, who highlighted the experience of Saleema Initiative in the State of Kassala and the collective work for the all-inclusive announcement to abandon the habit of female circumcision i.e. female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C) in the state through the community outreach and dialogue and household visits, group discussions and the formation of protection groups by the Council of Child Welfare and partners, indicating that the coming futuristic visions require substantial efforts and intensive workshops and forums to unify the religious discourse in the state besides the big scheduled work with the Legislative Assembly and the decision makers in the state to activate the laws that criminalize female genital mutilation/cutting FGM/C).

The State of Kassala is considered the ninth among the states of Sudan in terms of population, besides it is one of the states with high rates in the practice of the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C) with prevalence estimated at 79.8% (the Household Surveys 2010) as it is practiced by the majority of the state's population especially in rural areas despite the official, popular, civil, voluntary, national, foreign, cooperative, interactive efforts and the children rights prosecution in all the spheres of raising awareness through direct meetings, workshops and seminars but the habit is still in practice.

The push to annihilate the habit tops the priorities of the state's agenda for the magnitude of its negative impact on the community in general and its psychological, social, economic and health impacts on girls and women who undergo the circumcision

Ustaz/ Omar Osman, the official in-charge of the Office of Protection of the National Council for Child Welfare in the State of Kassala, underlined, while addressing the Forum, the importance of protecting the child-girls who should stay Saleema (sound, untouched and healthy). He stressed the importance of focusing attention on Saleema Initiative and work to establish its values and motto "every girl is born Saleema, let every girl grow Saleema". The discussions reflected varying opinions of male/female students, who unanimously denounced the female circumcision saying "together to leave the girls Saleema (sound, untouched and healthy) and embracing the idea of Saleema Initiative for outreach within the university campus and the medical complex and getting ready to work for raising the awareness of local communities of Saleema concept so the Initiative shall be prominent and appealing in all the faculties of the University of Kassala to target young men / women to bring about change by working together and in partnership with the various segments of the society such as the segments of lecturers, teachers, religious scholars and the interested women and men to exert more efforts to educate the locals to join the fight against the female genital mutilation by finding and using positive concepts and terminologies that contribute to roll back the habit in Kassala state.

Saleema Initiative's First Forum at El Gedaref University

Saleema (Uncut) young ladies courageously describe their personal experiences

El Gedaref: Saleema Initiative Website Work Team held, in collaboration with El Gedaref University, Faculty of Community Development, an introductory forum on Saleema Initiative for Communication in El Gedaref City, Thursday 19/05/2016. The forum was attended by (40) female students from the Faculty of Community Development. Ustaza/ Arwa Ahmed Abdullah addressed the forum saying it was the first Saleema Initiative forum in El Gedaref University campus. She highlighted the experience of working in the fight against the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C) in El Gedaref state, which she said began in the year 2010 in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and El Gedaref University's Faculty of Community Development, through the awareness workshops that targeted the local communities, which formed women and grassroots protection societies in Al Bottana, Al-Basondah and Al-Gadambaliah and several localities, whereas the awareness process focuses on three approaches:



1. The religious approach which is carried out in partnership with the religious scholars (clerics) because the local communities trust the religious scholars and rely on them in all matters and issues.
2. The health approach in which doctors and midwives talk about the health devastating aftermaths of female circumcision.
3. The legal approach to introduce the articles of the Child Protection Act.

The workshops in the different localities are usually spearheaded by one of the locality inhabitants who is usually the main speaker and moderator who directs the dialogue.

Intensive communal mobility was also carried out in the local communities, whereas nine communities pledged to abandon the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C), including Diem Bakr and Allam, which were among the first communities to declare and abandon FGM/C whilst the Faculty of Community Development implemented an outreach program by spreading and raising awareness to help end to the habit of female circumcision in the State besides protection associations were formed to follow up on the communities that announced abandoning the habit through community dialogue, households visits and seminars in addition to the formation of protection groups by the university in the state besides planned efforts with the decision makers to activate the Child Protection Law in the state.

Ustaza/ Tahani Sa'adan talked about the goals of Saleema Initiative topped by the main objective to deliver the basic message under the motto 'Every girl is born Saleema, let every girl grow Saleema, besides stressing the benefits of leaving the girl grow Saleema and highlighted the positive means of Saleema prepared by families that took the decision to make a difference and change in their lives through broadcasting these means:

I am strong in my decision

I am not afraid of change

What we know right now is more than what we knew in the past

The entire society is changing to the better

The debate reflected a high level of awareness on the importance of leaving the girl Saleema, whereas half the audience are Saleema girls.

The female students enriched the debate by reflecting their personal experiences, which are considered positive and provide incentive for Saleema Initiative because the majority of the audience are Saleema (uncut) girls, who commended the big role played by the family in leaving them Saleema (sound and healthy), especially the mothers who supported the decision to leave them Saleema, which is a shift forward and a credit to El Gedaref State in which the work in the framework of edification, abandonment and community awareness has started so early.

Saleema means the small and large commitments, which is considered a real addition to create a better society, as there are several components of the commitment of families and communities as a whole to preserve the daughters Saleema (uncut). At the core of this commitment is the fulfillment of the pledge to protect girls and saving them healthy, sound and intact as created by the Almighty Allah (God) without being subjected to any harm so it is a must to adhere to Saleema a pledge which is the foundation for the development of Saleema movement.

Finally, the female students vowed to leave their daughters Saleema (unharmed) in a voice pledge by loudly echoing the basic motto of Saleema: 'Every girl is born Saleema, let her grow Saleema'.







Dar Al-Ifta: The Female Circumcision Is "Haram" (Prohibited), Contravenes Islamic Sharia and Laws

Egypt's Dar al-Ifta (the Egyptian House of Ifta) stated that the process of female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C) is not a religious worshiping issue and is an inherited imitative issue in origin since it is a folkloric issue tracing back to customs and traditions, particularly as the female circumcision has changed with so many harmful physical and psychological effects, which necessitates the verdict that it is haram (religiously prohibited) and unanimously embrace such, with no unwarranted difference. This came in Dar Al-Ifta response to a number of unauthorized fatwas (edicts/ religious opinions) launched by unspecialized persons advocating the female circumcision, confirming that the Saying attributed to Prophet Mohammed (the Peace and Blessing of Allah Be Upon Him) as narrated by Umm Attiya isn't authentic, too weak and unsubstantiated.

* Dar Al-Ifta pointed out that the custom of the female circumcision was known to some Arab tribes for certain circumstances that have ever since subsided besides its medical and psychological harms have become so clear now with the consensus of doctors and religious scholars, noting that the evidence that the female circumcision is not a requirement imposed on women is that the Prophet, May Allah Bless Him did not circumcise his daughters God bless them.

The Egyptian House of Ifta indicated that it had earlier reviewed the medical scientific research issued by accredited medical institutions and impartial global health organizations, which proved severe the severe damages and dire consequences of the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C), saying it had issued, in the year 2006, a statement confirming that the female circumcision is part of the habits rather than the religious rituals and that any scholar familiar with the fact of the matter can only say it is haram (religiously banned).

Dar Al-Ifta warned of being dragged behind those calls coming from intruders who are not specialists, religiously or medically, which are advocating the female circumcision as an obligatory a worshiping duty, stressing that the prohibition of the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM?C) nowadays is the right judgment, which is consistent with the Shari'a intents and purposes and the interests of the people, and therefore fighting this habit is an honest application of the intent of God in His Creation, not to mention that practicing this habit is contrary to the Islamic Shari'a and a violation of the law, thus seeking to eliminate it is a sort of the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice.

* Dar Al-Ifta, a consultative religious institution that draws upon the Qur'an and the Prophet Sunnah, and consults the opinions of jurists throughout history to help Muslims live their lives according to the principles of Islam so they may find happiness in this life and obtain the best reward in the afterlife.

The Female Circumcision: Between Mutilation and Murder

The United Nations announced the inclusion of the fight against the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C) within the priorities of its plan for (2016-2030), with special emphasis on the fifth goal, which provides for gender equality and the elimination of violence against the women and all forms of gender-based discrimination, whereas the female genital mutilation/ cutting (FGM/C) is still rife in 30 countries around the world, including Egypt, in which the habit saw a rise to affect 75% of the girls in rural areas versus a decline in urban areas by 31%, according to United Nations recent reports.

The case of the child-girl victim of the 'female circumcision' who died some days ago in the Suez Province in Egypt, blew up outrage over the practice surviving since the ancient eras and still, in a large proportion of the Egyptian society, and shed the light on the legal accountability of the perpetrators of the female circumcision, be they ordinary individuals or doctors.

Some of you may probably hear of 'female circumcision' for the first time without knowing what the female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) is?, What are its devastating effects and complications and why such a heinous process like the female circumcision could be sustainable and socially acceptable up to now. The girl circumcision is a taboo, which the girls and women are not allowed to talk about or have a choice in it, which makes it a kind of sexual abuse of child-girls or minor girls, whereas the operation takes place at any age of the girl, especially at the stage of puberty, when the girl is persuaded that its a process which all girls undergo at this age, and the issue is manipulation with and the girl is told that she is going to enjoy her time with the rest of the girls for the process is mostly collective believing that such reduces the psychological pain to the girl, besides it takes place in a festive atmosphere to make the girl feel that the matter is totally acceptable. The process varies from country to country and from culture to culture.

What About The Societal Acceptance?

The United Nations recently launched a social campaign to raise the awareness on the dangers of female circumcision in the villages of Egypt, wherein the female circumcision rate reaches 75% among young girls, in which it depicted some of the reasons that might push the society to practice the process on their daughters so far.

The signatories of Saleema petition

ame: Mohamed
Email: mohamedharoun1503@yahoo.com
Message:
Stop FGM
It is cruel.
It is torture.
It is a cruel crime.
The physical and psychological impact on the girl is awfully huge.
t destroys the present and future of the girl.

Name: Lina tagrlsir ahmed
Email: Linaobeid96@icloud.com
Message:
I want this habit to stop

Email: safymoustafa2002@gmail. com
Message:
عندما تعتدي على طبيعة جسدها في الصغر أنها تعتاد ان تكون منتهكة الحرية خايفة دايما

ame: ben westmoreland
Email: Fblankzz@gmail.com
Message:
The practice of FGM is horrible and disgusting.Please do not allow this barbaric thing to continue.All decent and reasonable people should be against this appening to anyone on the planet.

Name: فاعلة خير
Email: loony-tony@hotmail.com
Message:
ختان الاناث مجرم ....الختان يعتبر رجعية في التفكير وعدم التطور عذراً لكن هذه الحقيقة

Name: وفاء مصوي إبراهيم أدم
Email: wafaadam@hotmail.com
Message:
ممارسة ختان الإناث مؤذية و ظالمة و يجب أن تتوقف.

Name: ايمان علي الحسين
Email: moooneiman@gmail.com
Message:
معا لخلق مجتمع معافي وخالي من ختان الاناث ولحياة بناتنا للافضل