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Female Genital Mutilation in Africa: A Socio-Legal Lens

Adiroopa Mukherjee

University of Minnesota - Morris

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Female Genital Mutilation in Africa: A Socio/Legal Lens

-Adiroopa Mukherjee
University of Minnesota, Morris
URS & MMP, 2014

P
C
S
fe



FEMALE
GENITAL
G
MUTILATION
M/C
CUTTING
C

Types of FGM/C

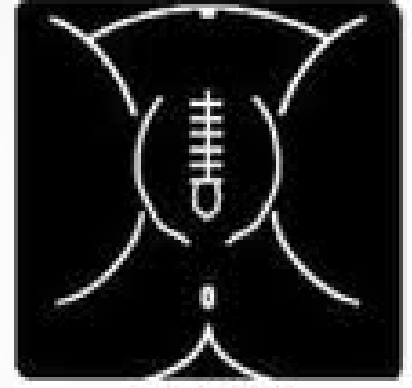


Clitoridectomy

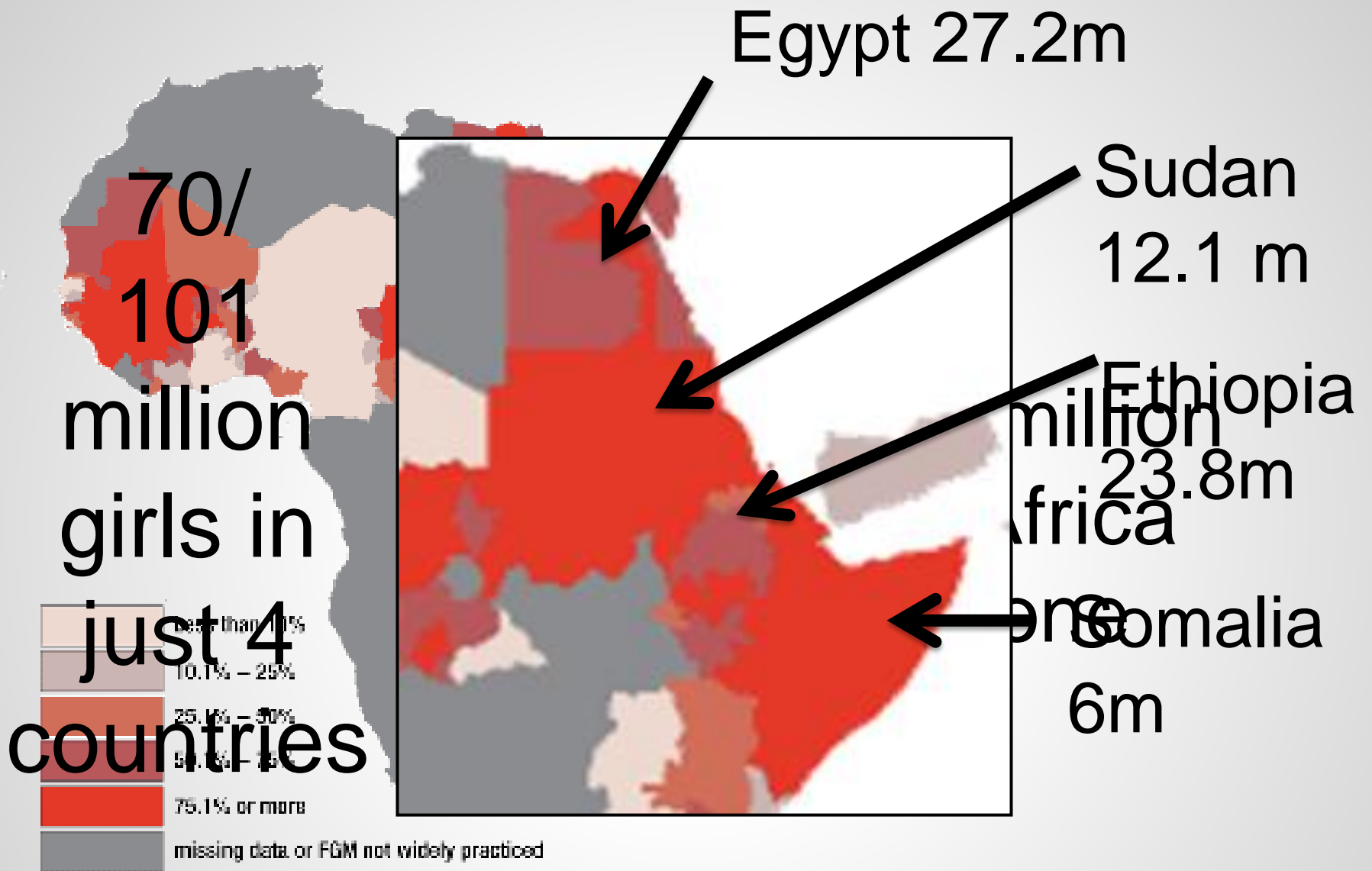


Excision

Other



Infibulation



Source: MICS, DHS and other national surveys, 1997-2006. Map developed by UNICEF, 2007.

Intense pain

Hemorrhaging

Infertility

Urination
retention
problems



Childbirth
complications &
neonatal deaths

Genital
Herpes

DEATH

HIV AIDS

Social Reasons:

HONOR

Reduce pre-marital sex

Protection from rape



VIRGINITY

MARRIAGE

Uncircumcised = *promiscuous*

Socially ostracized



IDENTITY

Forced from women

Follow up procedures

Future sex

For childbirth

Mutilation at the whim of the husband.

Initiation

Hygiene Religious Requirement ?

- FGM predates Islam and Christianity
- No support in religious texts

Human Rights Violation

FGM prohibited in 26 African countries

2013 – No African country has criminally
prosecuted anyone for FGM

Egypt
2008

Somalia
2012

“We also understand that Dr. Fadi *paid* Soheir’s family 50,000 Egyptian Pounds (\$7,257 USD) and they no longer want to pursue the case.”



Soheir Batea, 13 Egyptian Died from FGM Pounds (\$7,257 USD) complications and they no longer want to pursue the case.

Multi-faceted approach

Saleema Campaign, Sudan



Saleema

Whole

Intact

Healthy in body and mind

Unharmmed

Pristine

Untouched

In a God-given condition

Perfect.

NGO's

Maendelo Ya Wanawake
Organization and Tostan

Medicalization

Medical staff as agents
of change

Mass Media

Education through TV
and Radio

Legal Approach

- Follow international human rights frameworks
- Enactment of laws promoting rights of women to property, inheritance and minimum age of marriage.
- Have systematic reviewing and amending of policy framework
- Target both men and women from a platform of intercultural, community-based work
- Allocate safety, aid and empowerment resources for response to violence against women.

Questions? Comments? Criticism?

