

# **Awareness, Perception and Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation Among Women of Childbearing Age (15–49 years), in UKE Community, Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State**

Ikejiaku Stanley Chiagozie\*, Shindang Maryam

Department of Community Medicine and Primary Health Care

\*Corresponding Author

## **ABSTRACT**

The term Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) describes procedures of total or partial removal of external female genitalia or other intentional injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The research design was descriptive cross-sectional survey with a quantitative approach which enabled the researcher to assess the awareness, perception and prevalence of female genital mutilation among women of childbearing age (15–49 years), in Uke Community, Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. This research study found out that the age of the mothers did not significantly influence female genital mutilation practice, likewise the occupation of the women under study. However, ethnicity of the childbearing age women with their level of education were having a significant influence on their practices of female genital mutilation. Based on the findings of this study it was recommended that There should be a continuous awareness and campaign programs on the effects of Female Genital Mutilation on the Victims. The government should foster partnership with non-governmental organizations that focuses on the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation to eradicate the practice. In conclusion the data obtained shows a significant level of poor attitudes towards female genital mutilation due to some misconceptions and it was also revealed that there are several complications associated with Female Genital Mutilation which includes painful sexual intercourse, transmission of sexually transmitted infection and lack of sexual desires.

**Keywords:** Awareness, Perception, Prevalence, Practice, Female Genital Mutilation

