ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE OF UNIVERSITY OF VENDA MALE STUDENTS REGARDING MALE CIRCUMCISION, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

By

VICTOR EYO PHILIPS
(STUDENT NUMBER: 11622429)

A mini-dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree:

Masters of Public Health (MPH)

UNIVERSITY OF VENDA

Supervisor: Prof. H.A. Akinsola
Co-Supervisor: Prof. A.K. Tugli

2017

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DECLARATION

I, Victor Eyo Philips, declare that the mini-dissertation titled “Knowledge attitude, perception and practice of University of Venda male students regarding male circumcision in Limpopo province” is my work, that all sources that I have quoted have been acknowledged by means of complete references, and that this work has not been submitted for another degree at this university or any other institution.

............................................................  ............................................................
Signature                                          Date
DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my family, my wife Precious, my Children, David and Esther, to all my extended family, Maurice Philips, Eyo Philips, Arith Okurufor, Henry Philips and Elvis Philips, to my mom, Mrs. Mary Philips and my late father, Mr. Raphael Eyo Philips. May his souls rest in peace.
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ACRONYMS

USA-United States of America

UNAIDS–Joint United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS

HIV-Human Immunodeficiency Virus

WHO- World Health Organization

FGM- Female Genital Mutilation

FGC- Female Genital Cutting

FC- Female circumcision

AIDS-Acquired Immunodeficiency syndrome

MC – Male circumcision

STIs – Sexually transmitted diseases
ABSTRACT

Introduction
Male circumcision is being promoted in University of Venda presently due to the South African recent awareness that it is a method of preventing the transmission of the Human Immunodeficiency virus. However, for effective implementation, it is necessary that the students believe in the procedure and have a positive attitude towards the procedure.

Purpose of study
The objective of the study was to assess the University of Venda male student knowledge and perception regarding male circumcision.

Methodology
Method to achieve this was a cross sectional quantitative study using anonymous questionnaire among the male students in university of Venda after obtaining their consent. Data was captured and analyzed using SPSS.

Result
A total of 285 male students participated in the study. Most of them (77.2%) were undergraduate below 30 years of age (91.2%) while others were post graduate (22.8%). Majority of them are Christians (97.9%), singles (85.9%) and married (12.6%). Result obtained showed that most of the respondent (87.9%) are circumcised, only a minority few (12.1%) are not circumcised. As regards the meaning of male circumcision (75.2%) said that male circumcision is the complete removal of the foreskin. Majority of the respondents (86.6%) responded that circumcision is better than uncircumcision, showing a relatively good knowledge of benefits of male circumcision, one-third of the respondent (39.9% ,37.8%) showed a good knowledge regarding the merits of male circumcision as per reducing the rate of STIs and the risk of HIV/AIDS.

Conclusion
Conclusively, most of the University of Venda students have a good knowledge of male circumcision, only a few are not knowledgeable about male circumcision. Also a positive attitude was shown non male circumcision with only a few students showing a negative attitude. While majority of the respondents practice male circumcision. They also encourage their siblings to do so.

Recommendations
The study made a number of recommendations that were intended to improve knowledge, attitude and practice of male circumcision, it calls for long campaign to reach more uncircumcised Univen students in order to scale up male circumcision and train more personnel to administer the ritual safely and under more hygienic conditions.
KEYWORDS: Assessment, knowledge, attitude, practice, students and male circumcision