



AED Initiative

FGM Reduction Workshop for Community Groups in Somalia

17th -19th September 2016



Project Funded by: Portable Practical Educational Preparation (PPEP)

Implemented by : Aid & Education Development Initiative (AED Initiative)

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1 Introduction

AED Initiative organized three days of workshop for community groups through collective collaboration and partnership with PPEP. The workshop session mainly focusing on FGM issues involved participants from communities. AED Initiative has been involving local communities to be through active participation and overall awareness campaign through continuation of the outcome of the past workshops.

2 Objectives

The overall aim of the workshop was address the community issues and promote awareness of FGM and empower the local communities to spread awareness and effectively participate FGM eradication campaign.

- Educate the local communities
- Promote awareness and involve local communities overall campaign
- Enhance education on FGM
- Involve FGM advocates and participants through knowledge sharing and discussion on reduction of FGM issues
- Introduce the possible measures and actions that involve collective collaboration between the local communities and advocates

3 Facilitation Process

The following procedures was followed during the organizing and implementation of the workshop

3.1 Organizing: Participants were selected from the local communities to participate in the workshop

3.2 Registration: Participants registered for attendance

3.3 Rules: The presentation and topics were prepared and participants

3.4 Presentation: The workshop presentation was conducted through participation and group work

3.5 Participants

- Contribute ideas and actively participate in group work sessions
- Present experiences and discuss about some of the most pressing challenges facing the communities
- Participate in FGM awareness campaign
- Address the issues related to FGM and educate the communities about the ways to prevent
- Advocate for change and work through collective collaboration

The trained participants play very important role in the communities. AED Initiative has so far involved trained participants through voluntary initiative through which they participate in awareness campaign.

4. Procedures

The facilitators presented the workshop through power point presentation showing pictures and topics of the of the workshop. The participants were engaged through group discussion sessions while discussing while following the presentation.

5. Definition of Female Genital Mutilation

FGM is practice which is commonly used throughout the history although the general societies understand in different ways and cultures. Over the years, FGM has been practice in many countries including Somalia but the traditional communities had no knowledge about the effects and dangerous of the practice. The practice involves circumcision and cutting which injures the female organs.

5.1 History and Cultural Practice

Historically, FGM practice has been existing for decades and the practice is still common in many countries with long traditional background and beliefs in the practice. But Somalia the practice is common in traditional ways and local communities mostly in rural area continue to practice FGM. Over the years, more effort has been made to eradicate FGM but no of girls facing going through the pain are still at large. The traditional practitioners usually look for vulnerable girls and families provide the advice through their ideas.

5.2 The effects of hazards of FGM practice among the populations

- ✓ The girls and women who had gone through the practice still face possible danger and continues pain
- ✓ Most of the communities with traditional believe continue the practice as a tradition for circumcision
- ✓ Traditional practitioners usually use local tools for circumcision which easily transmitters blood
- ✓ Majority of the girls and women in rural areas do not know about the danger and consequences
- ✓ Women go through unending pain during the delivery
- ✓ In communities that practice FGM, girls are generally subjected to powerful social pressure from their peers and family members to undergo the procedure. They are threatened with rejection by the group or family if they do not follow tradition
- ✓ In FGM practicing communities, it is believed that a woman's external genitalia are ugly and dirty, and will continue to grow ever bigger if they are not cut away. Removing these structures makes a girl hygienically clean

5.3 Difficulties and challenges

The traditional communities who had practiced FGM do not have knowledge and good understanding about the effects and hazards of FGM practice. FGM victims continuously encounter challenges and fear to discuss about the pain which affects them mentally for longtime.

6. Role of Community Groups

- ✓ Advocate for effective change and eradicate FGM through
- ✓ Participate in national awareness program
- ✓ Collectively collaborate with women groups and advocates to address the practice
- ✓ Educate the traditional practitioners.

6.1 Women participation and awareness

Women continue to play very important role in the societies. Over the years, Women have been making significant contribution towards community development through awareness and development programs

7. Outcome and action plans

After end of workshop sessions, AED Initiative planned the following the actions with contribution of the participants

Activities	Suggested Polices and Actions
Involve participants through awareness programs	Develop polices
Carry out mobilization with FGM advocates	Contribute towards international campaign against FGM
Educate the traditional and local leaders	Collaborate human rights institutions
Involve youth in awareness process	Influence the decision makers to take actions
Undertake regional awareness on FGM issues	Advocate to effective change
Organize youth campaign forums in schools ,colleges	Contribute towards laws protecting FGM victims
Initiate community education programs	Raise funds to continues education and training

9. Appendices

8.1 Presentation Overview

Date	Session 1 (8.30am – 10.00am)		Session 2 (10.45am 12.00pm)		Session 3 (2.30pm - 3.45pm)
17 th .06. 2016	Registration Workshop overview	B R	Role of community groups - Women group - Traditional leaders - Advocators and campaigners	L U	Group discussion - Sharing experience - FGM in Somali context
	FGM history and cultural practice		FGM eradication campaign		International procedures and national

18 th .06.2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss about the hazards and effects - Why practice FGM - 	E	-Possible ways to eradicate practice	N	attitude
		A	-Promote awareness programs	C	Declarations, Conventions and code conduct
			- Educate participants about FGM		
19 th . 06.2016	Promoting awareness and knowledge development		Contribution and plan of action		Contribution and plan of action
	-Educating the communities	K	- Involve participants	H	- Involve participants
			Group discussions		Group discussions

8.2 Photos of the workshop

The participants sharing experiences and ideas during workshop presentation focusing on FGM issues



