

An Exploration of Subjugation of Women among the Communities Practising Traditional Male Circumcision Rite in Eastern Cape, South Africa

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KEYWORDS Commission on Gender Equality. Cultural Rights. Human Rights. Millennium Development Goals. United Nations Development Programme. Women's Rights

ABSTRACT Importantly, the world cannot be fair if women's rights in various facets of society continue to be stifled. The innumerable initiates' deaths year-in-year out, the pains and agonies of women because of their son's irreparable initiation damages have necessitated a desire to increase women's bargaining power in issues pertaining to the rite. The aim of this article using desktop review method is to discuss and debate subjugation of women in traditional male circumcision. Findings indicate that: women suffer huge exclusion in cultural and social domain; subjugating women a sure way of men's hegemony; Women's involvement in some cultural activities considered a taboo; deaths of the initiates has shaken gender dynamics associated with male initiation rite; and religious and other belief systems downplaying women's empowerment generally. The paper recommends following strategies: Embracing cultural rights of women; women's rights should not allow cultural oppression; and the need for effective gender based education.