



Community Mobilization Strategies to Prevent FGM in West African States: An Impact Assessment in Zimbabwe

Community Mobilization
Strategies to Prevent FGM

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Abstract

Female genital mutilation (FGM) remains a significant public health issue in West African states, including Zimbabwe. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews to assess the effectiveness of mobilization initiatives in reducing FGM prevalence and societal support for it. Community mobilization led to a 20% reduction in reported cases of FGM, particularly among women aged 18-35 who participated in advocacy groups. The study underscores the importance of sustained community engagement and targeted education in curbing FGM practices. Continued support for community-based initiatives should focus on increasing access to information and resources, especially for marginalized communities.

Keywords: *African geography, Female genital mutilation, Community empowerment, Participatory research, Development interventions, Gender norms, Empowerment strategies*

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This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

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