AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF POST GRADUATE CHILDHOOD STUDIES

THE SOCIAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MEDICAL ASPECTS OF FEMALE CIRCUMCISION

PRESENTED
BY

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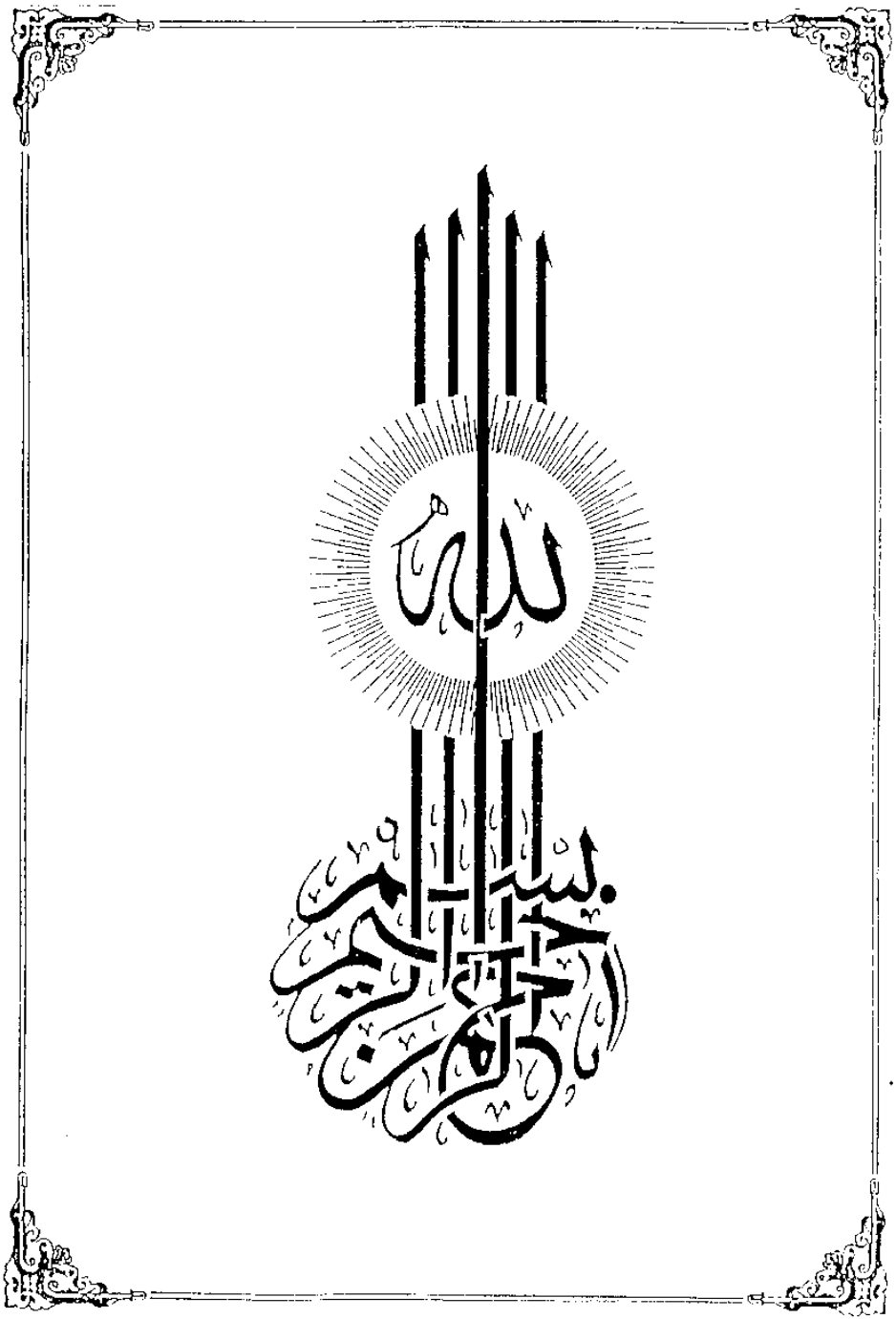

ABSTRACT

Risgallah, Laila Selim. The Social, Psychological and Medical Aspects of Female Circumcision. Unpublished Doctor of Philosophy dissertation, Institute of Post Graduate Childhood Studies, University of Ain Shams, 1995.

Female Circumcision constitutes a significant health problem to the social and psychological status of women in many parts of the world. The practice of female circumcision is nearly worldwide in distribution. Attitudes regarding a woman's role in society have a strong impact on the acceptance and perpetuation of this practice. One hundred and two circumcised, married females have been studied. They were from different social classes: low, middle and high, as well as different levels of education, illiterate, middle and high. Tradition headed the list of causes for circumcision, followed by preservation of chastity. Education had a major effect on the perpetuation of the practice, specially the education of the parents of the circumcised woman. The main performers of circumcision in younger aged females were doctors, followed by midwives in the older age bracket. Female circumcision has no religious basis.

Regarding complications , many women suffered short, as well as long term complications. Short term complications included pain and retention of urine. As for long term complications: the majority (51.97%) claimed not to suffer from long term complications, although 38.24% of the rest (45.09%) said that they suffered frigidity, while 34.30% said they suffered from other sex problems, such as fear of sex , disgust and disinterest in sex..

Prospects for eradication include short and long term plans. Short term plans include training performers of circumcision about antiseptic techniques of circumcision.

Long term plan includes education and abolition of illiteracy, designing of training programs to be studied in schools , medical and nursing schools, programs for illiterate soldiers..etc. as well as using the media and religious institutions to enhance awareness of the dangers and complications of this practice as well as help in abolition of circumcision..

Key Words

Circumcision
Infibulation
Clitoridectomy
Clitoris
Mutilation
Excision
Child
Human
Infant
Vaginal Labioplasty
Customs
Sociology
Religion
Adolescent
Sex
Traditions
Complications
Customs
Culture
Perinatal
Hemorrhage
Justice
Legal
Psychological Trouble
Public Health
Sexuality
Pain
Labour
Maternal Mortality
Risk
Non Governmental Organisations
Health Education
Infection
Myth
Islam
Christianity
Attitudes
Marriage

"All human beings are free born and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood (and sisterhood).

(Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

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CONTENTS

2 Local: Urine Retention
Difficulty in passing urine.
Hemorrhage
Infection

b. Intermediate Complications

1. Delay in wound healing
2. Hematocolpos
3. Arthritis

c. Long Term Complications

1. Urinary tract problems
Recurrent urinary tract infections
Difficulty with urination
Calculus formation
2. Anal Complications
3. Gynecological Complications

- Difficult examination
- Dysmenorrheoa
- Keloid formation and scarring
- Dermoid cyst and abscess formation
- Neuroma
- Pelvic Infections
- Infertility

4. Obstetric Complications:

During childbirth :
Episiotomy
Cesarean section
Prolonged labour
The fetus

Post-natal
Fistulae