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7. Identifying turning points for migrant women in the process of changing their attitude towards the practice of female genital mutilation.

Afi Agboli

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Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a global public health concern and has already affected more than 200 million girls and women worldwide. It violates women's bodily integrity, rights and health. A change of attitude towards FGM is due to turning points (TP) in some women's lives. This study identifies life events related to a change of attitude towards the practice of FGM among migrant women who have become agents of change for not undertaking the practice on their daughters. Qualitative study was performed on data from 15 individual interviews with women living in Belgium. The analysis drew on lifelines constructions and thematic narrative approach to examine common turning points relating to change of attitudes towards FGM. Some turning points fell under: (i) mother-in-law's decision, (ii) painful intercourse, (iii) encounters with health professionals, (iv) education.

Incorporating the turning points in the interventions will increase awareness of cultural and ethical sensitivity among Health professionals. This will assure a holistic quality of care for the women and further motivate them to change their attitudes and protect their daughters. Further research will consider factors and mechanisms that influence the change of attitude towards the practice of FGM.

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