

## COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION OF FEMALE CIRCUMCISION IN MADURA

Sri Hidayati, Netty Dyah K and Yuliana Rahmawati

---

**ABSTRACT:** *The purpose of this study to explore about the construction of Madurese society against female circumcision. The specific purpose of this study was to analyze the motives (reasons) behind female circumcision and the process of female circumcision. The method used in this research is an in-depth interview on the informant. The research informants were circumcised women, dukun (medical) who performed female circumcision. The result of the research shows that the reason for female circumcision motive is to dispose of najis women, preserving customs*

**KEYWORDS:** Female Circumcision, Madura, Unclean

---

### INTRODUCTION

The United Nations, in particular the CEDAW Committee, in 2013 issued a resolution on the abolition of the practice of female circumcision. Kitanit is one of the practices that are currently being undertaken in several countries including Indonesia. According to UN data, 140 million girls and women in Africa, the Middle East and Asia genital mutilation. But when other countries begin to abolish the practice of female circumcision by a number of Islamic countries, such as Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt, Indonesia maintains and even legalize female circumcision through Minister of Health Regulation No 1636 of 2010.

The phenomenon and practice of female circumcision is also mostly done on the island of Madura. Based on preliminary observations of the researchers, the average Madurese population practices this female circumcision. The practice of circumcision occurred evenly in 4 districts in Madura. Madurese consider that female circumcision as well as male circumcision is mandatory, so almost every girl must be circumcised (Zamroni, 2011). In fact, the practice is also carried out by medical personnel who involve midwives and clinics by setting a certain tariff. The implementation of female circumcision is done starting from medical personnel, shaman infant, wife kyai (nyai) and circumcision by using traditional tools or modern tools. Female circumcision in Madura is performed when girls are less than 6 months of age since birth. Though viewed from the side of health, sex and other sex excitement. (women do not contribute positively to the health of the female genitals or reproductive organs as a whole, can even cause death.) The adverse effects on the health of women due to circumcision are vaginal infections, urinary tract infections, chronic pain, sterility, skin cysts, acute hernias, complications during childbirth, HIV / AIDS and others.

### Method

The first informants came from several villages in Madura, including Ibu Suminah Rokayah (housewife). Age 49 years from Dhejeh Jheret Village Dusun Penyantren Kamal Bangkalan.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### The reason (motive) of Female Circumcision

Until now the public view of circumcision (Khitan) is still very confusing many people who encourage and many people who prohibit female circumcision (circumcision). What is your view of female circumcision (Khitan)? My view that as a Muslim is obliged to carry out circumcision and in my village this is already a tradition that women are obliged in circumcision and I do not care about the negative or positive society (interview with Mrs. Suminah Rokayah, Kamal, 2016)

The basis of your circumcision (circumcision)? Factors from parents who advocate and follow the traditions that exist in our village. (interview with Ibu Suminah Rokayah, Kamal, 2016)

Mandangin Island is 21,000 inhabitants, the majority of Mandangin Island women do circumcision because according to one of the residents disini reveals the reason why he did like because if the sex is more comfortable, comfortable, adds to the passion of both and satisfied to feel the time of intercourse with her husband as well as the sumai feel incredible satisfaction (interview with Royhanah and Soimah, Mandangin Island, 2016)

What is the reason of female circumcision? The reason of the family (parents), because dikala family of her daughter who is not always changing to want to search for another husband or married again caused by the lack of satisfaction for the wife when having sex with her husband (interview with Head MTs Miftahul Ulum, Ahmad, Island Mandangin, 2016)

In the perspective of Shari'ah, the Islamic religion of female circumcision madura law is sunna and is obligatory for men to perform circumcision, said a religious figure of Mandangin Island Village Ustadz Muzayyin Alumni Pondok Pesantren Sidogiri (interview with Ustad Muzayyin, Mandangin Island, 2016)

Female circumcision Madura done for to reduce the shortage, dissatisfaction will be sex or can be mentioned in bahad madura 'Kerreh' (interview with Mrs. Nabun Dukun Beranak, Mandangin Island village, 2016)

Female circumcision Madura also can reduce the disharmony in the family because there is no pleasure in sex, it is because the satisfaction and the inner needs of a married couple. (interview with Ibu Nabun Dukun Beranak, Mandangin Island Village, 2016)

Why do you apply the tradition of female circumcision? yes ..., because I want to live healthy and not neko - neko. This tradition is done because he said the ancestors if girls in circumcision will beautify the child and stabilize lust. (interview with Pak Totok, Desa Kraton, 2016)

How do you respond to female circumcision? I think as a parent. Circumcision can make the parents can expect something better in the future that will come if the ancestors first if the girl is not on circumcision will be dangerous because the clotted meat can rub against the pants that can affect lust. Therefore, in order for my child to avoid all that I mengkhitan my child. (interview with Pak Totok, Desa Kraton, 2016)

What is the reason why in circumcision? Yes that he is still customary ... .. and also there are when the sunnah rosul .... yes it has become a trust in this village. And that's my mother's word .... (Interview with Andini (20 years), Candih Kamal, 2016)

Mrs. Siti said it has become a tradition though not popular anymore, only a few who still defeat this tradition. Ibu Siti does not know what the benefits of female circumcision that yes know only sunnah (recommended practice, if not done nothing but when it gets rewarded) religion only. (interview with Mrs. Siti 45 years old, Ds Socah Timur, 2016)

The reason people do this circumcision is because this circumcision is mandatory in accordance with the myths that are believed by the citizens. (interview with Anisa, Assistant Midwife of Tanjung Jati Village, 2016)

This case occurs mostly in Madura area, one of the areas that ever happened this case is Tanjung Jati village. In this village female circumcision in the public perception that is mandatory to do because the tradition has decreased. (interview with Anisa, Assistant Midwife of Tanjung Jati Village, 2016)

Is the child's mother a female circumcision? Iya mbak (interview with Mrs. Aliya 28 years, Monday 21 December 2015. Jeddung Village, Tragah Sub-district, Bangkalan Marital Status)

Circumcised for what reason ya bu? Yes to be healthy mba. (interview with Ibu Aliya 28 years, Monday 21 December 2015. Jeddung Village, Tragah Sub-district, Bangkalan Marital Status)

Mother know if circumcised can make healthy from where? Yes from the neighbors whose children are also circumcised, then my mother also used to be circumcised he said to be more healthy so mbak. (interview with Ibu Aliya 28 years, Monday 21 December 2015. Jeddung Village, Tragah Sub-district, Bangkalan Marital Status)

Then, my own mother is circumcised as well? Yes I am also circumcised. (interview with Ibu Aliya 28 years, Monday 21 December 2015. Jeddung Village, Tragah Sub-district, Bangkalan Marital Status)

### **Process (Procession) Female Circumcision**

What tools are in use when circumcising? razor blades, flower 7 rupa, kencur (interview with Ibu Suminah Rokayah, Kamal, 2016)

How are the processes of circumcising? when the baby in circumcision kencur pasted near the baby's genitals and water from the flowers 7 is in drops in the baby's genitals, residents say that kencur is placed near the baby's genitals to withstand pain when the baby in circumcision ago after in circumcision remains clitoris the baby in the input into the water flower 7 rupa then water from the flowers 7 rupa is poured in the cemetery of the baby girl. (interview with Ibu Suminah Rokayah, Kamal, 2016)

The process of female circumcision of Madura is by rubbing or scratching on the vagina or jellik (the smallest part inside the vagina) with turmeric as much as 7 times a scratch by reading bismillah, surah al-fatihah, sholawat 7 times without breathing and Do'a. (interview with Ibu Nabun Dukun Beranak, Mandangin Island Village, 2016)

The process is how to perform female circumcision? By slashing the tip of her clitoris slightly. (interview with Andini (20 years), Candih Kamal, 2016)

What tool is usually used to make it circumcise? Use only scissors and turmeric only (interview with Andini (20 years), Candih Kamal, 2016)

The implementation of female circumcision Madura done at the age of 0-18 tahun. Salah a West Maduraese said, that he circumcised his daughter when aged 3-4 hari. Hal was done with the assumption that if the girl is not circumcised, then the girl has not been considered to convert to Islâm . Another opinion says that female circumcision majority carried out at the age of five is age 7-40 days. Toddlers aged 7-40 days as many as 110 people or 45.8 percent and age less than 7 days as many as 91 people or 37.9 percent 10. Implementation of female circumcision in each district in Madura is different. The implementation of female circumcision in Pamekasan district is done when the age of 35-40 days.

The process, seven days after birth to coincide with a scissor or haircut commonly referred to in Islam aqiqah process and naming it will be circumcised. With the help of scissors (not a knife) and turmeric. Turmeric here is useful as an antiseptic and only injured or scratched in the intimate little part of the baby girl is not cut in accordance with his narrative. (interview with Mrs. Siti 45 years old, Ds Socah Timur, 2016)

However, the practice for women does not have any cutting on the female genitals but it is done cleaning up the umbilical feces on the female genitals in order to launch the urethra (interview with Anisa, Assistant Midwife of Tanjung Jati Village, 2016).

Actually in the medical view of female circumcision is not like circumcision in men that is female circumcision is cleaning the dirt from the placenta attached to the genitals. (interview with Anisa, Assistant Midwife of Tanjung Jati Village, 2016)

### **The Perception of Uncircumcised Women and Parents**

How did you feel when you were in Circumcision? Being a whole person and calm because it has performed obligations as Muslims (interview with Mrs. Suminah Rokayah, Kamal, 2016)

Do you think it's good for women's circumcision for health? I do not know but I am healthy, I never experienced bad things about my health. (interview with Ibu Suminah Rokayah, Kamal, 2016)

Do you as a parent apply the tradition of female circumcision to your child? Yes I keep following the tradition of female circumcision to my child (interview with Pak Totok, Desa Kraton, 2016)

Who usually circumcised her? In my village I was usually taken to a midwife by the side of the road. (interview with Andini (20 years), Candih Kamal, 2016)

How long has the mother been a female circumciser? I have been 20 years so dukun circumcision of women (interview with Ms. Siti 45 years, Ds Socah Timur, 2016)

What is the opinion of the mother about this female circumcision? In my opinion, about this female circumcision has become a tradition in Madura ..., because if first every girl who was born was always unified at a certain age.

Then if uncircumcised what impact is it? If the uncircumcised woman should be caught ..., the purpose of the circumcision let her passion not become-so when adult later.

Then the benefits of women's own circumcision is what? Actually it is not clear what the benefits of female circumcision itself, female circumcision is only sunnah so if not done it is okay but if done ya get a reward.

Researchers met a practitioner of circumcision practice on a baby girl named Siti's mother, he is now 45 years old, he has been a dukun since 20 years ago. He used to help midwife to give birth long ago, and if the afternoon he helped the new mother gave birth to bathe her newborn child. According to his narrative he will seek approval of the baby girl's parents to circumcise the baby, if parents do not want it will not be circumcised. However, if parents allow it will be circumcised. (interview with Mrs. Siti 45 years old, Ds Socah Timur, 2016)

Women's circumcision is divided into four:

1. Cut all parts of the clitoris (penis-like part of the male body).
2. Cut off part of clitoris.
3. Sewing or narrowing the mouth of the vagina (infibulasi)
4. Piercing, scratching the tissue around the vaginal opening, or inserting something into the vagina for bleeding with the aim of tightening or narrowing the vagina.

The female circumcision that Siti's mother made was the 4th Circumcision that only scratched the female parts only to cause bleeding.

The practice of female circumcision in Madura is still happening because one of them follows the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad. SAW: "Do circumcision and do not overdo it (cut it lightly), because if just cut a little (not excessive), can make the face more cheerful and happy husband." (HR.Al-Hakim, Al-Thabrany, Al-Baihaqy and Abu Nu'aim)

There are some pros and cons to circumcision committed against women. Pro support comes from the followers of Islamic teachings themselves because the Prophet Muhammad had circumcised his daughter, while the counter or opinion that refused circumcision against women came from the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) and World Health Organization WHO. While the long-term effects include the prolonged pain during sex. Sexual dysfunction (unable to reach orgasm during intercourse). Menstrual dysfunction resulting in hematocolpos (accumulation of menstrual blood in the vagina), hematometra (accumulation of menstrual dysrhea in the uterus), and hematosalpinx (accumulation of menstrual blood in the fallopian tubes). Chronic urinary tract infection. Urinary incontinence (can not hold urine), Can occur abscess, dermoid cyst, and keloid (hardened scar tissue).

## CONCLUSION

There are some positive or negative views of the phenomenon of female circumcision which has become a tradition in Madura. The positive side of circumcision for women is to do the sunnah of the Prophet (because the Madurese tradition is rooted in the value of Islam), penasetabil sex drive, prevent disease or infection and prevent cancer and HIV. While the negative side include Bleeding resulting in shock or death, Infection of all pelvic organs leading to sepsis, Tetanus causing death (cleansing tool used), Gangrene that can cause death, Urinary retention due to swelling and blockage on the urethra.

## REFERENCES

Interview with Mrs. Suminah Rokayah, Kamal,  
Interview with Ibu Suminah Rokayah, Kamal,  
Interview with Pak Totok, Desa Kraton,  
Interview with Andini (20 years), Candih Kamal,  
interview with Ms. Siti 45 years, Ds Socah Timur,