

DEVELOPING A PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET ON FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING/ MUTILATION IN MALAYSIA

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INTRODUCTION

- 99.3% of Malaysian Malay Muslim women¹ reported undergoing female genital cutting (FGC), primarily Type IV involving pricking or needling the clitoris.
- Increasingly medicalised, 20.5% of Malaysian Muslim doctors perform Type IV FGC², with some even conducting Type I FGC, previously unheard of among traditional midwives.
- Driven by religious beliefs and cultural norms, this shift aims to deter parents from seeking midwives.
- In response, Malaysian Doctors for Women & Children, alongside partners, developed educational tools and a patient information leaflet to reduce FGC demand.

DESIGN & METHODS

Open-dialogue discussions with civil society organisations, youth groups, healthcare professionals, and parents.

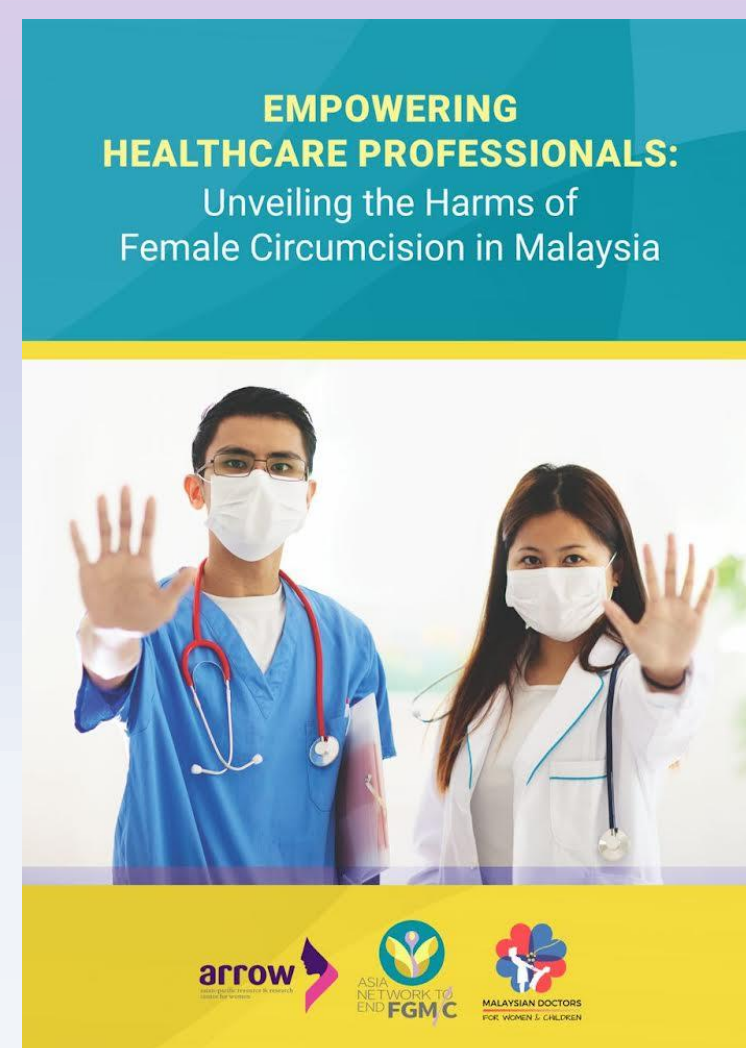


Figure 1: Unveiling the Harms of Female Circumcision in Malaysia (2024)³ by Malaysian Doctors for Women & Children and Asia Network to End FGM/C.

The content was adapted from "Empowering Healthcare Professionals: Unveiling the Harms of Female Circumcision in Malaysia"³ into a draft patient information leaflet in English and Malay.

The first draft was reviewed in an in-person group discussion with 17 participants, recruited via social media and email.

The second draft: The content refined and transformed into a visually designed lookbook with graphics, images, and layout.

The final draft: Formed from second online review with the participants from the first in-person group discussions.

RESULTS

Discussions highlighted three themes:

Cultural sensitivity and compassionate approach

Accessible language

Storytelling approach



Figure 2: Culturally sensitive approach. The *bunga telang* (blue pea flower) serves as a symbolic representation of the vulva, offering a culturally resonant and visually engaging way to discuss vulval anatomy and FGM/C. By using this flower as a mascot, the storytelling approach fosters understanding and encourages open dialogue on these sensitive topics.



Figure 3: Compassionate, storytelling approach. A comic was utilised to illustrate the scenario commonly faced by young Malaysian Malay Muslim parents as they navigate the decision of whether to subject their daughters to FGC (locally known as *sunat*).

Female Genital Cutting (FGC)
Is Not Necessary



AN EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATION BY
MALAYSIAN DOCTORS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Sunat Perempuan (FGC)
Bukan Satu Keperluan



SEBUAH PENERBITAN OLEH
THE MALAYSIAN DOCTORS FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Figure 4: The final patient information leaflet in English and Malay languages.

English version:



CONCLUSION

This approach emphasises the importance of understanding local practices, fostering open and respectful dialogue, and employing culturally appropriate communication to address FGC effectively.

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