THE EXPERIENCE OF INDIGENOUS CIRCUMCISISON BY NEWLY INITIATED XHOSA MEN IN EAST LONDON IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE

by

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SUPERVISOR: PROF TR MAVUNDLA

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DECLARATION

I declare that THE EXPERIENCE OF INDIGENOUS CIRCUMCISIION BY NEWLY INITIATED XHOSA MEN IN EAST LONDON IN THE EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

SIGNATURE        DATE ………………………
(Brian Bottoman)
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ABSTRACT

The practise of male traditional circumcision is severely challenged with enormous problems ranging from hospitalisation of the initiates as well as deaths of the initiates. The background of the problem is focused in the Eastern Cape Province where the researcher has noted several initiates being treated in hospitals for physical and as well for psychological problems. The objective of this study was to explore and describe newly initiated Xhosa men's experiences of traditional circumcision rites at East London in the Eastern Cape Province and to describe the guidelines for support of these newly initiated Xhosa men by public health professionals. A qualitative explorative, descriptive contextual and phenomenological design was followed. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the participants. Fourteen participants volunteered to participate in the study after they met the eligible criteria. Focused group interviews were used as a method for data collection. Data analysis of the study showed that there are several factors affecting newly initiated men whilst undergoing circumcision rites. These factors can present at any of the three circumcision stages i.e. pre-circumcision, peri-circumcision and post-circumcision. The recommendations of the study strongly suggest a cultural competence in rendering effective health care services to culturally and ethnically diverse clients. All the five constructs of cultural competence are entailed in the support guidelines that have been developed by the researcher. They are cultural awareness, cultural knowledge, cultural skill, cultural encounter and cultural desire. Finally limitation of the study and the need for a further research has been clearly stated.

KEY CONCEPTS

Experience, initiates (umkwetha), phenomenology, qualitative research, traditional circumcision, traditional practice, traditional surgeon (ingcibi).
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DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to participants who volunteered in this study, public health workers and the people of the Eastern Cape Province