

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

by

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submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements

for the degree of

**MASTER IN PUBLIC HEALTH**

in the subject

**HEALTH STUDIES**

at the

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**SUPERVISOR: PROF TR MAVUNDLA**

**JUNE 2006**

Student number: 3248-329-8

## DECLARATION

I declare that **THE EXPERIENCE OF INDIGENOUS CIRCUMCISION 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  
(Brian Bottoman)

DATE .....

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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*).

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very thankful to God for giving me strength to complete this study and give him honour and praise.

I would also like to give my sincere thanks to the following persons for their invaluable support and enending encouragement:

- Professor TR Mavundla, my supervisor at Unisa for all that he taught me
- NRC and DENOSA study fund, for granting me financial support, without them I could not have finished this study
- My family, Tozama, Aviwe, Anathi and my colleagues who encouraged me, never gave up supporting and believing me
- The principals of the local schools in Mdantsane, for allowing me to do research at their schools.
- My wife, Tozama, for helping with typing of the dissertation

To you all, my sincere thanks and love, and I wish you strength in all your endeavours

## *DEDICATION*

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