Abstract:

The research aims to describe the belief system of circumcision ritual of girls found in Madurese urban people in Surabaya, to identify factors influencing the compliance with the belief system and to describe the circumcision ritual among the Madurese people in Surabaya.

The research uses the qualitative and quantitative design. Techniques used to collect data include observation, questionnaire, and in-depth interview. The research location is Kelurahan Demak, Kecamatan Paneleh, Surabaya. The collected data were decoded, and the interview results were transcribed verbatim. The findings were categorized and interpreted with reference to direct statements made by the informants.

The study found that the belief system of circumcision ritual of girls found in Madurese urban people in Surabaya has been influenced by four factors: (1) a belief in their religion's teachings, (2) tradition inherited from their ancestors, (3) a belief in purifying their daughters (literally, making them righteous), and (4) a myth among the people that uncircumcised women are considered impure and will not be cared by their husbands, and uncircumcised girls will be difficult to have a husband. Meanwhile, factors that affect the persistence of circumcision ritual of girls among Madurese urban people in Surabaya include (1) compliance with Islamic teachings, (2) stereotype of uncircumcised girls, and (3) conformity to cultural values and tradition in their homeland.

Circumcision of female children is normally done in the age of a week to 40 days, following their tradition and religion's teachings. The circumcision is done by a midwife without an anesthesia, using unsterilized equipment and medicine, so that infection can occur. The decision of circumcision is made by the elder, either grandmother, father or kyai (Islamic figure). The circumcision of girls among Madurese people in Surabaya is considered "easy" compared with the similar practice found in African countries.

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